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MARVEL® COMICS GROUP



THE NEW MUTANTS™



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THE NEW MUTANTS

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WELCOME TO PROFESSOR CHARLES
XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNG-
STERS. THESE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE HIS
STUDENTS, THE NEW MUTANTS:

SAM
GUTHRIE

ROBERTO
da COSTA

DANIELLE
MOONSTAR

RAHNE
SINCLAIR

XI'AN
COY MANH

THE LADY
IS ONE
OF THEIR
TEACHERS,
STEVIE
HUNTER.

IS THIS
REALLY
NECESSARY,
STEVIE?

AND WHY DID
YOU HAVE TO LET
THE OTHERS WATCH?!

INITIATION!

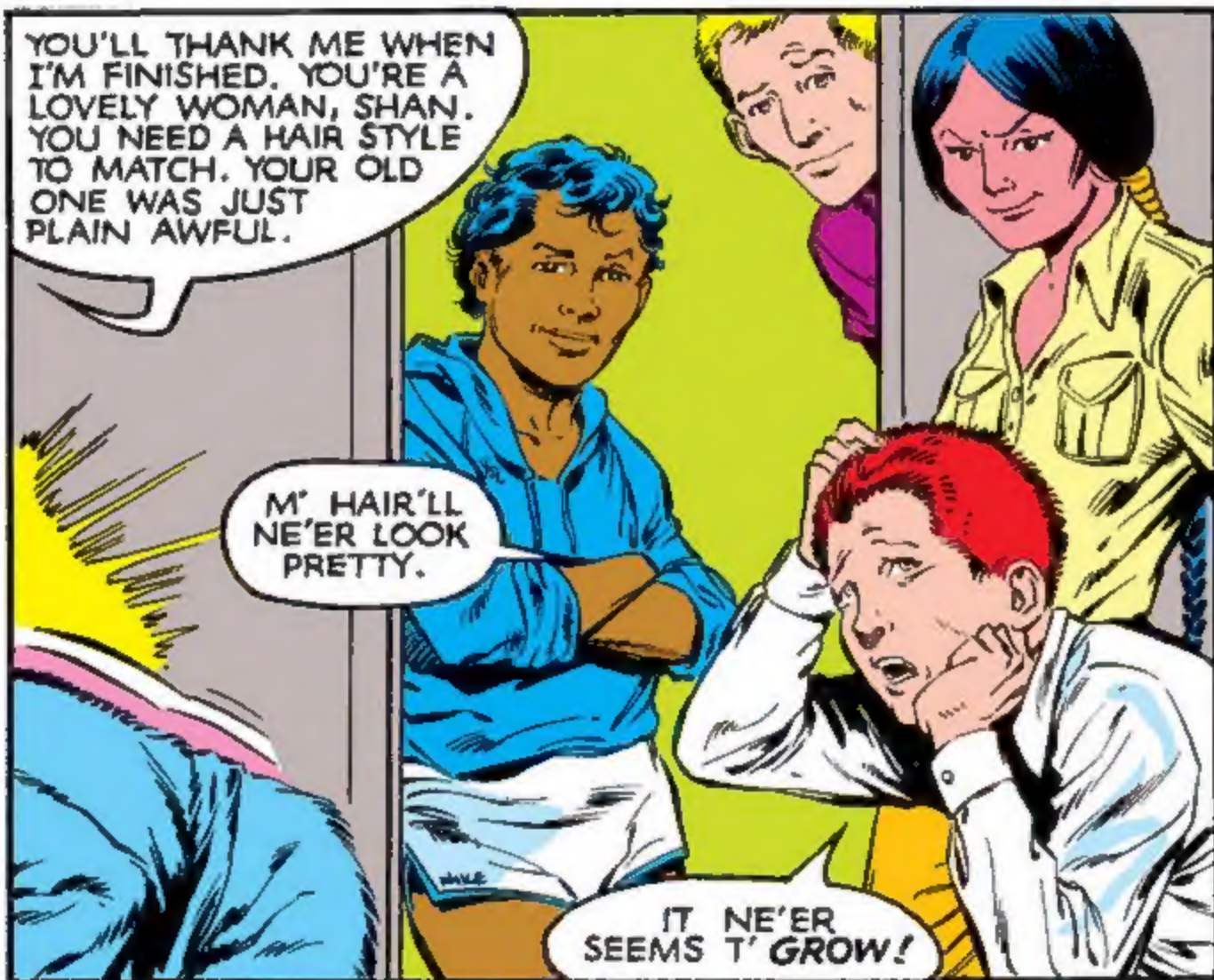
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I COULDN'T STOP THEM, SWEET-HEART. HOLD YOUR BREATH.

SPLASH

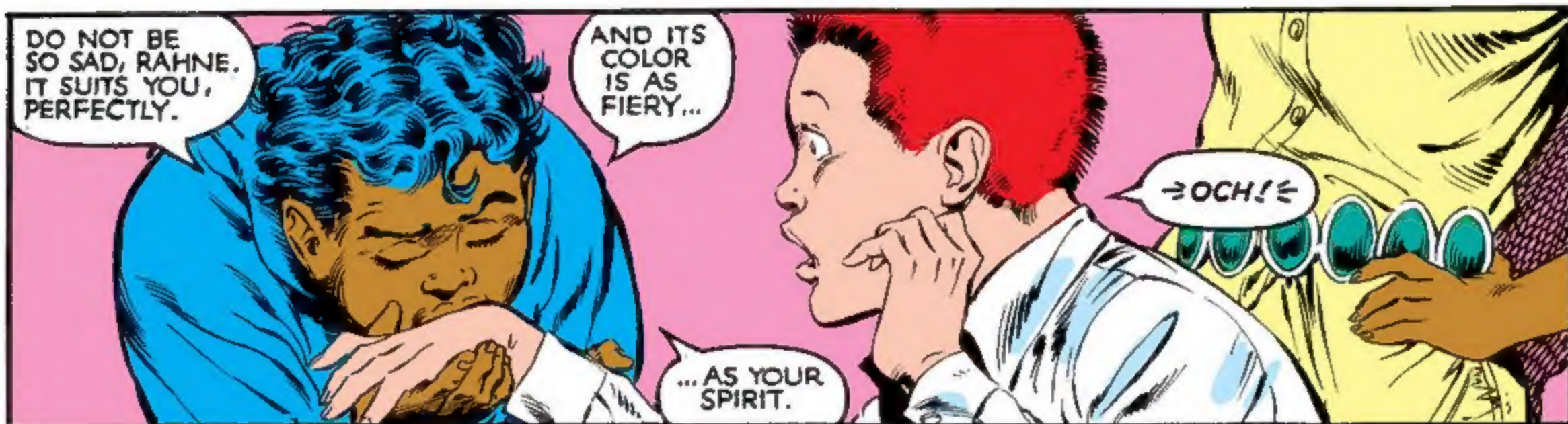
BLURRGH!



YOU'LL THANK ME WHEN I'M FINISHED. YOU'RE A LOVELY WOMAN, SHAN. YOU NEED A HAIR STYLE TO MATCH. YOUR OLD ONE WAS JUST PLAIN AWFUL.

M' HAIR'LL NE'ER LOOK PRETTY.

IT NE'ER SEEMS T' GROW!



DO NOT BE SO SAD, RAHNE. IT SUITS YOU, PERFECTLY.

AND ITS COLOR IS AS FIERY...

...AS YOUR SPIRIT.

OCH!



WHOOOF! BOY, YOU CERTAINLY HAVE STYLE!

IN MY NATIVE BRAZIL, STEVIE, TO ADMIRE WHAT IS BEAUTIFUL IS MERELY GOOD MANNERS.

HE-- KISSED ME!

DOES THA' MEAN, THEN, HE LIKES ME?

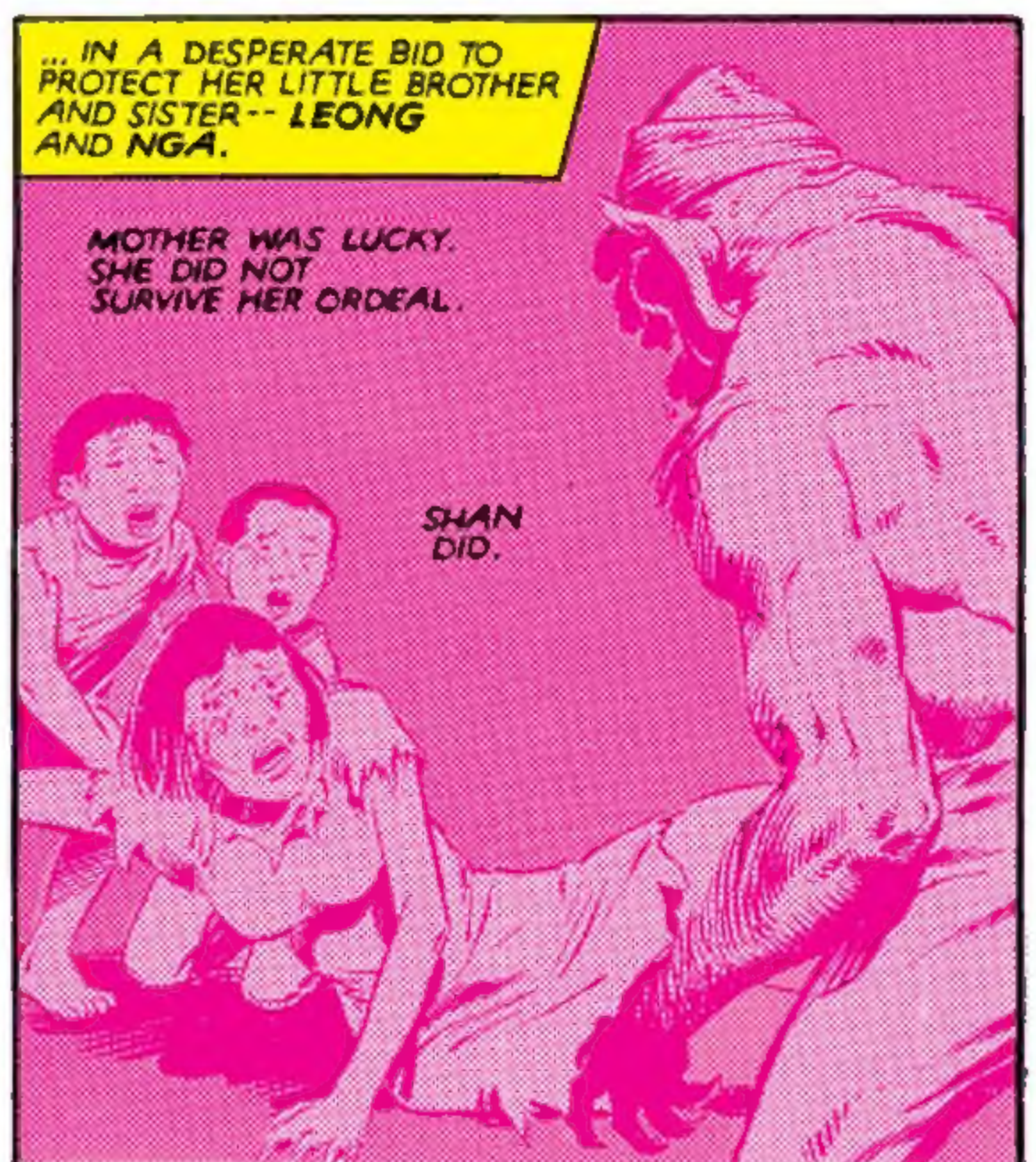
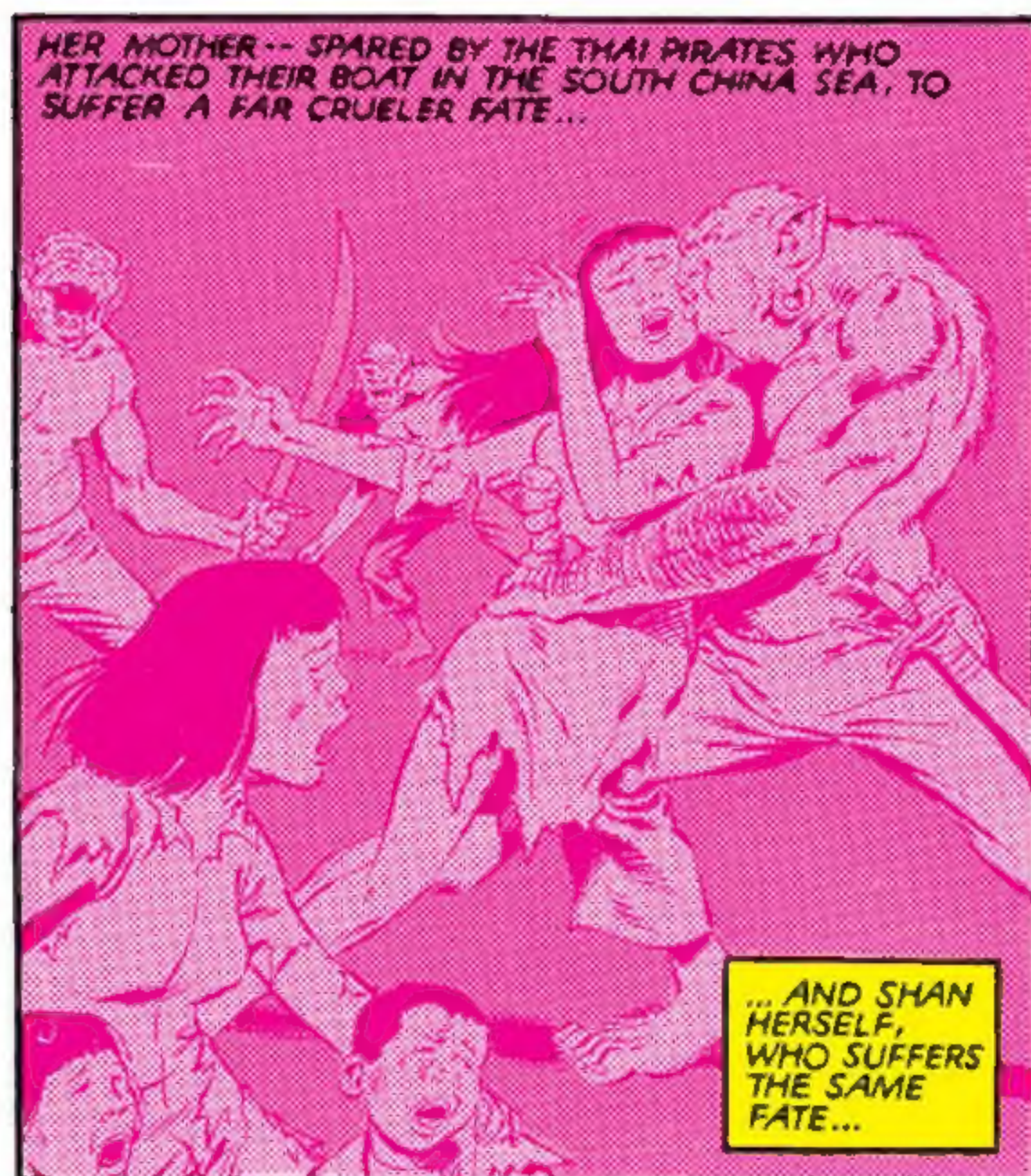


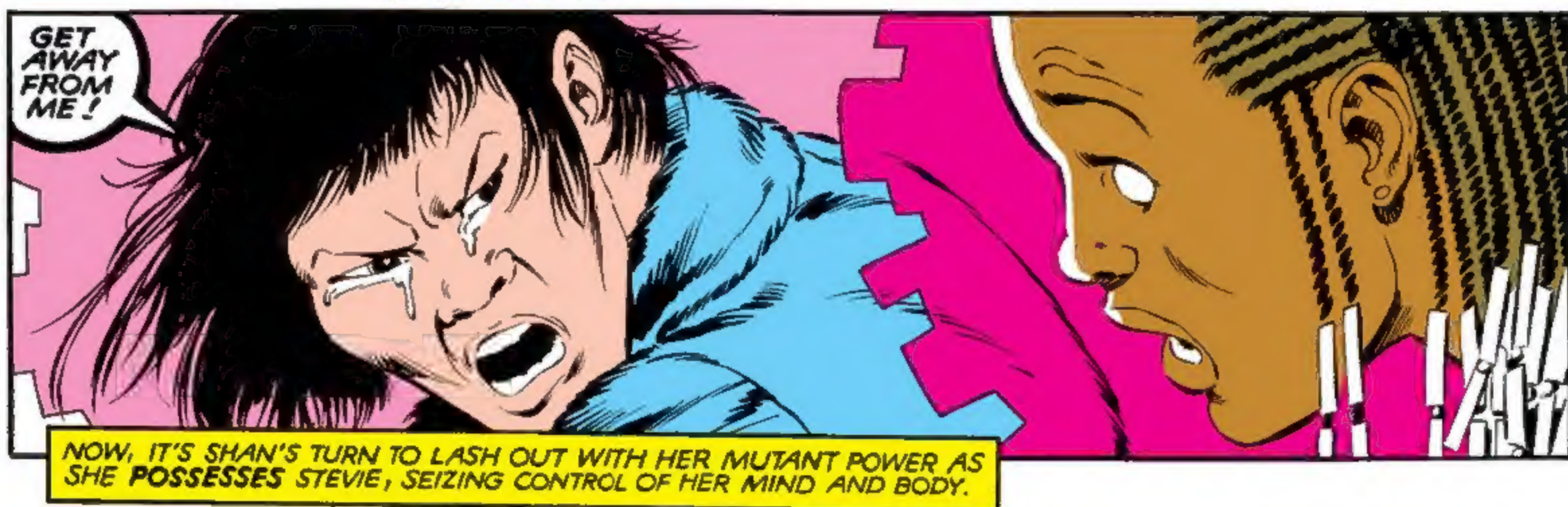
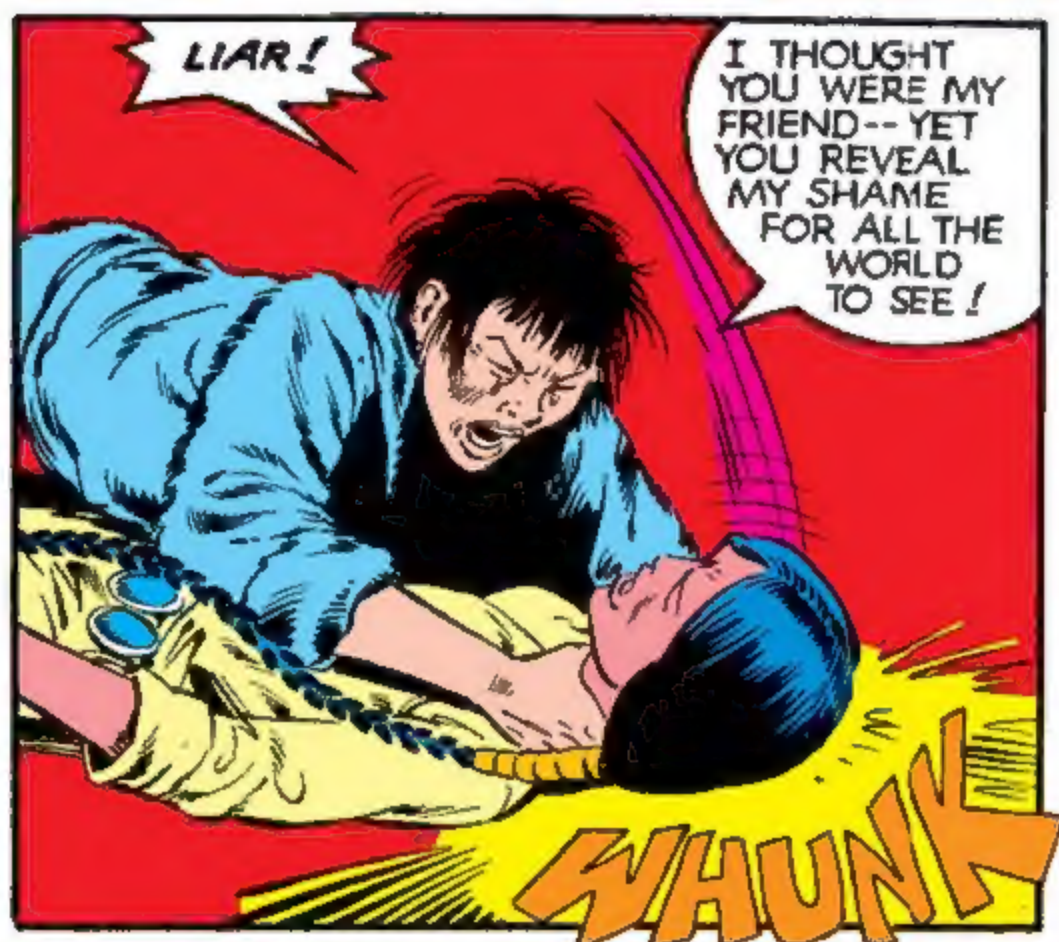
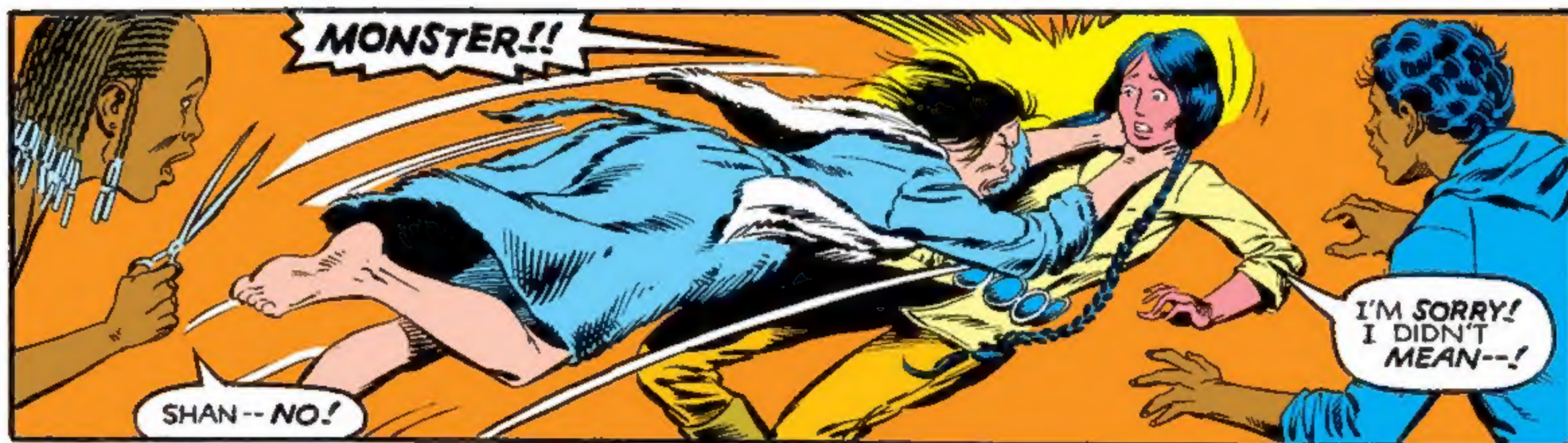
I DO NOT CONSIDER THIS AN IMPROVEMENT.

TRUST ME.

ROBERTO'S A REAL CHARMER-- AND HE KNOWS IT.

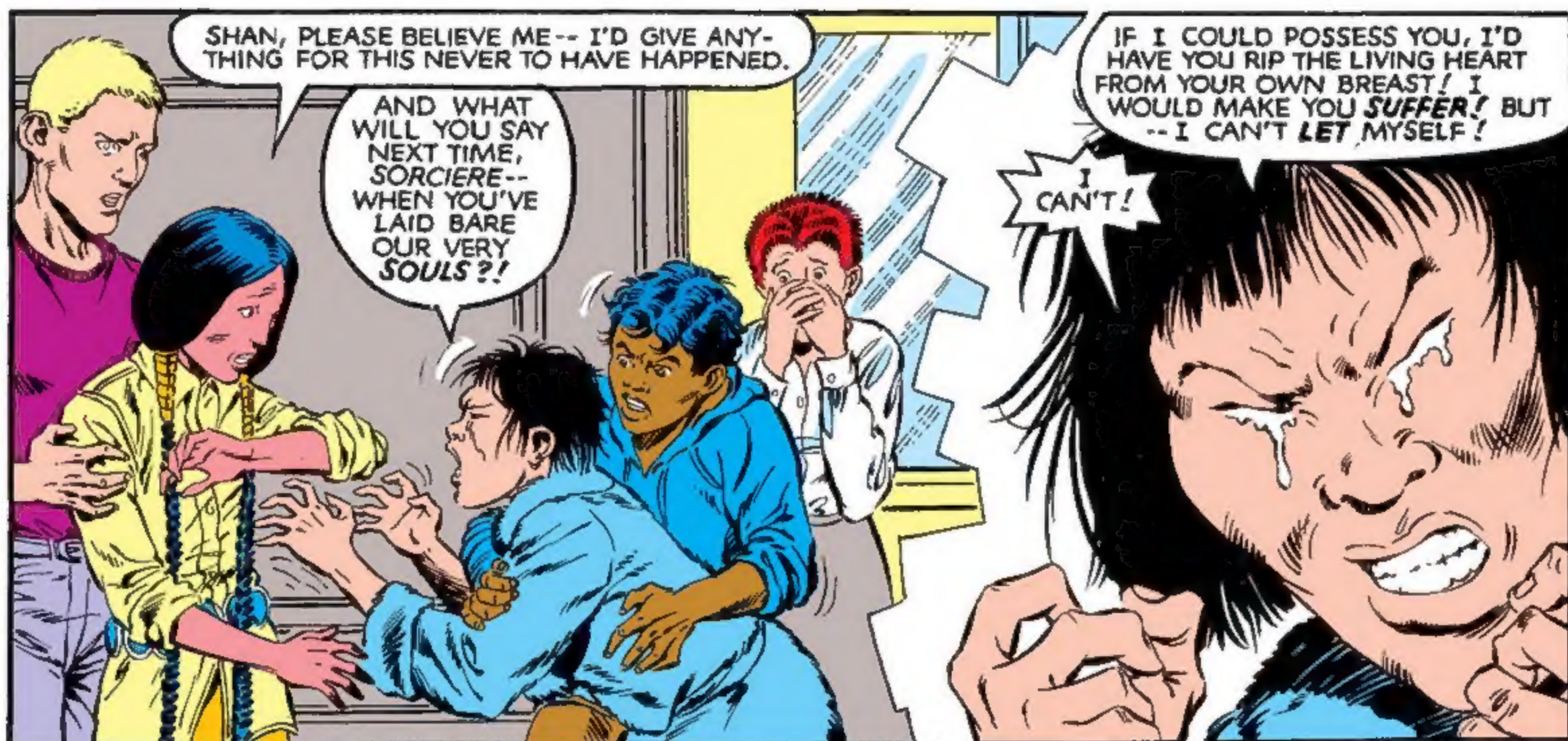
I HOPE HE'S CAREFUL OF RAHNE'S FEELINGS. HER FUNDAMENTALIST SCOTS UPBRINGING HAS MADE HER TERRIBLY INNOCENT. AND VULNERABLE.





ONLY THE SHOCK OF ROBERTO'S SLAP BREAKS HER CONCENTRATION, THEREBY RELEASING STEVIE.





ELSEWHERE IN THE SPRAWLING MANSION...

MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE LET SHAN BASH MY BRAINS OUT. IT WAS NO LESS THAN I DESERVED.



BEFORE HE DIED, MY GRAND-FATHER COMMANDED ME TO LEAVE MY WYOMING MOUNTAINS-- TO COME HERE AND LET PROFESSOR XAVIER TEACH ME TO CONTROL MY ACCURSED MUTANT ABILITIES.



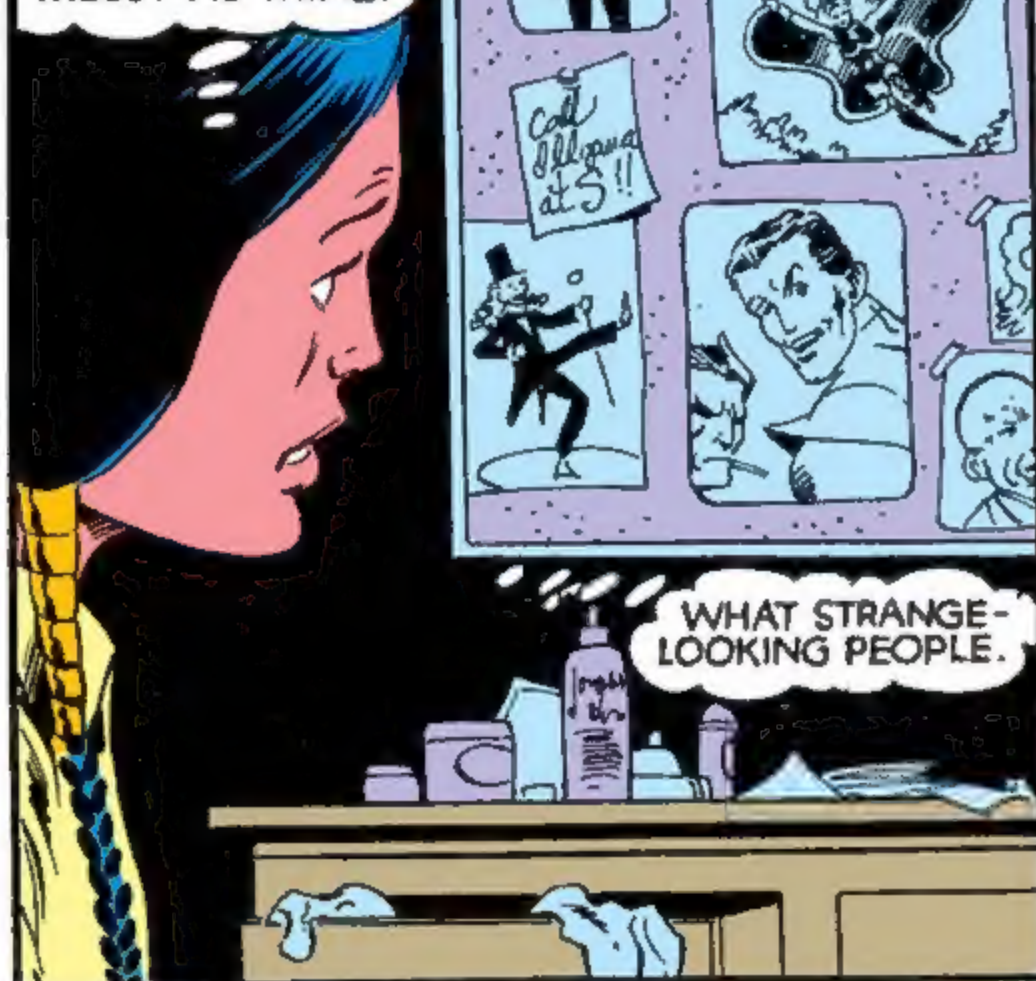
BUT ALL XAVIER'S DONE IS GIVE ME A STUPID COSTUME, AND MAKE MY LIFE MISERABLE.

WHERE AM I, ANYWAY? I'VE NEVER BEEN IN THIS WING.



OH! THIS MUST BE WHERE HIS OTHER STUDENTS-- THE ONES STEVIE CALLS "X-MEN"-- LIVE.

NICE ROOM-- AS MESSY AS MINE.



WHAT STRANGE-LOOKING PEOPLE.

I'VE MET ILLYANA RASPUTIN-- SHE'S IN ENGLAND WITH THE PROFESSOR'S PARTNER, Dr. MacTAGGERT-- SHE WAS A NICE KID, BUT WEIRD.

I WONDER IF SHE'S A MUTANT, LIKE US.



THE PROFESSOR NEVER TALKS ABOUT THE X-MEN. SOMETHING TERRIBLE MUST HAVE HAPPENED TO THEM. ARE WE SUPPOSED TO TAKE THEIR PLACE?



WILL THEIR FATE ... BE OURS?

WHO CARES? I PROBABLY WON'T BE AROUND TO SHARE IT...

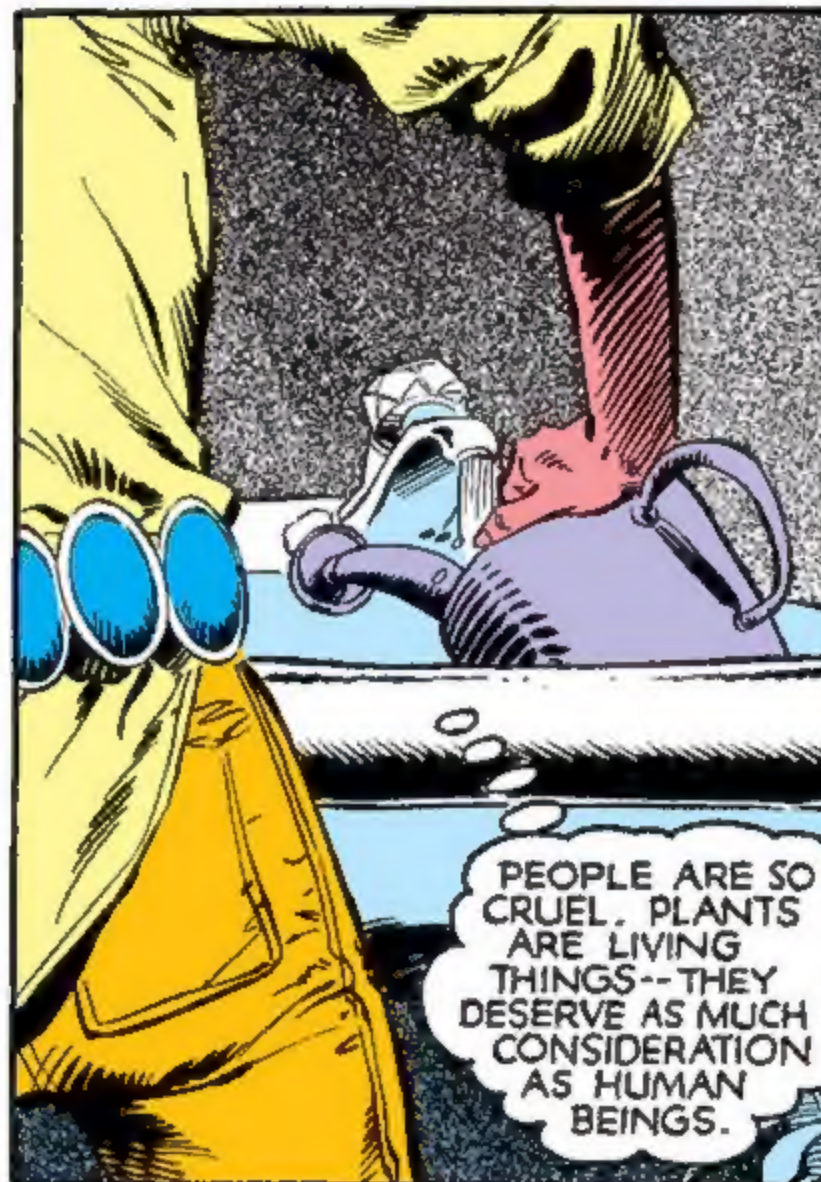
...EVEN IF I WANTED TO.

MY POWERS ARE DESTROYING MY LIFE-- AND ANY CHANCE FOR FRIENDSHIP OR HAPPINESS HERE...

... JUST LIKE THEY DID BACK HOME.



IT ISN'T FAIR!





LONDON--

--THE RESIDENCE
OF THE ISRAELI
AMBASSADOR...

DO YOU
HAVE ANY
IDEA WHY
WE'VE BEEN
SUMMONED,
MOIRA?

NOT THE
SLIGHTEST,
POPPET.



BUT I'M SURE
WE'LL SOON
FIND OUT.

MADAME AMBASSADOR-- Dr. MOIRA MacTAGGERT
AND MISS ILLYANA RASPUTIN...

I'M GABRIELLE
HALLER. THANK
YOU FOR
COMING.

YOU MUST
HAVE HAD A
LONG JOURNEY
FROM MUIR
ISLE. I
SUGGEST
DINNER FIRST.
THEN, WE'LL
TALK.



AND SO,
AFTER A
SUPERB
MEAL...

YOUR REPUTATION--IN THE FIELD OF
MUTANT GENETICS-- IS CONSIDERABLE,
MOIRA. SO IS MY NEED.

I HAVE A
SON--NOT MUCH OLDER THAN YOU,
ILLYANA. AN AUTISTIC CHILD.

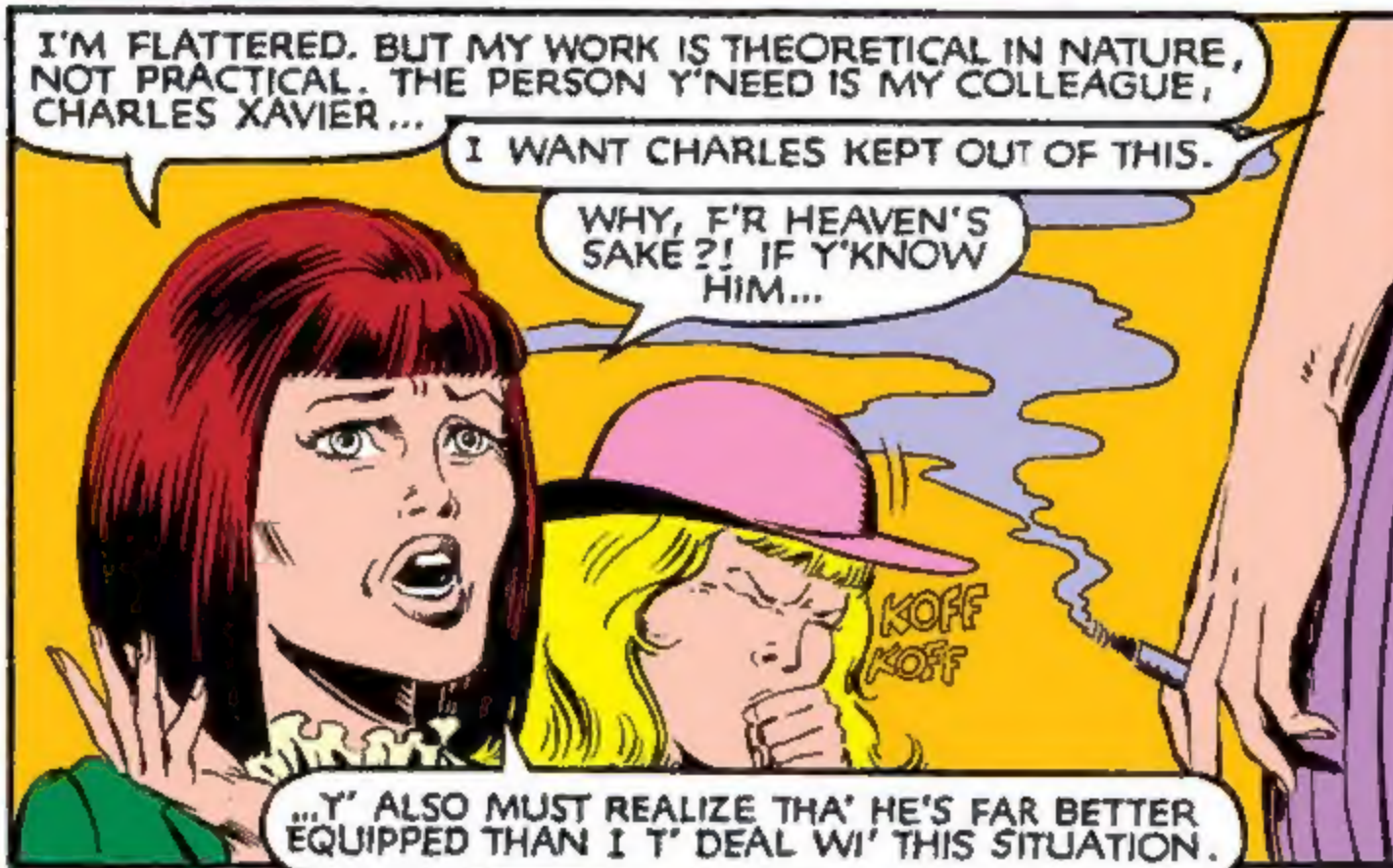
THAT'S A BIT
OUT OF MY
LINE, Dr.
HALLER. I'M
NO' A
PSYCHIATRIST.



HIS AUTISM IS MERELY A SYMPTOM OF
SOMETHING FAR MORE SERIOUS. THE
BOY IS A *MUTANT*. I BELIEVE HIS
ABILITIES ARE PRIMARILY PSIONIC--
TELEPATHY, POSSIBLY TELEKINESIS.

I HAVE TRIED
EVERY MEANS
TO HELP HIM,
WITHOUT
SUCCESS.

I TURN
TO YOU
AS A LAST
RESORT.



I'M FLATTERED. BUT MY WORK IS THEORETICAL IN NATURE,
NOT PRACTICAL. THE PERSON Y'NEED IS MY COLLEAGUE,
CHARLES XAVIER...

I WANT CHARLES KEPT OUT OF THIS.

WHY, F'R HEAVEN'S
SAKE?! IF Y'KNOW
HIM...

...Y' ALSO MUST REALIZE THA' HE'S FAR BETTER
EQUIPPED THAN I T' DEAL WI' THIS SITUATION.



I HAVE MY REASONS.

AN' I'VE A
RIGHT T'
HEAR THEM.

VERY WELL--
SINCE YOU
INSIST.

CHARLES
XAVIER... IS
THE BOY'S
FATHER.



WELCOME TO THE **DANGER ROOM**, STUDENTS. ALL OF ITS SYSTEMS ARE CONTROLLED FROM THIS BOOTH. IN ADDITION, ITS COMPUTERS WILL MONITOR AND EVALUATE YOUR PROGRESS.

STEVIE, AH GOTTA HAND IT TO YOU. SHAN'S NEVER LOOKED BETTER.

MERCI, SAM. YOU ARE TOO KIND.

AHEM!



BEFORE WE BEGIN-- SOME OF YOU ARE NO DOUBT CURIOUS ABOUT THE RESIDENTS OF THE MANSION'S OTHER WING. THERE IS, I AM SURE, A QUITE NATURAL TEMPTATION TO EXPLORE.

IMAGINE, THOUGH, HOW YOU WOULD FEEL WERE THE SITUATION REVERSED. THE PRIVACY OF OTHERS DESERVES AS MUCH RESPECT AS YOUR OWN.

HE'S TALKING TO EVERYONE-- BUT HE MEANS ME.

HE KNEW WHERE I WAS WHEN HE MINDCALLED US!



PROFESSOR, I'VE BEEN IN THE LIBRARY, READING THE HISTORY OF YOUR SCHOOL.

ARE WE TO BECOME THE **NEW X-MEN**?



NO! YOUR... PARDON, ROBERTO, I DID NOT MEAN TO SNAP. THERE WILL BE A SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS-- WHOSE STUDENTS ARE MUTANTS-- BUT NEVER AGAIN WILL THERE BE THE X-MEN, A TEAM OF MUTANT SUPER HEROES.

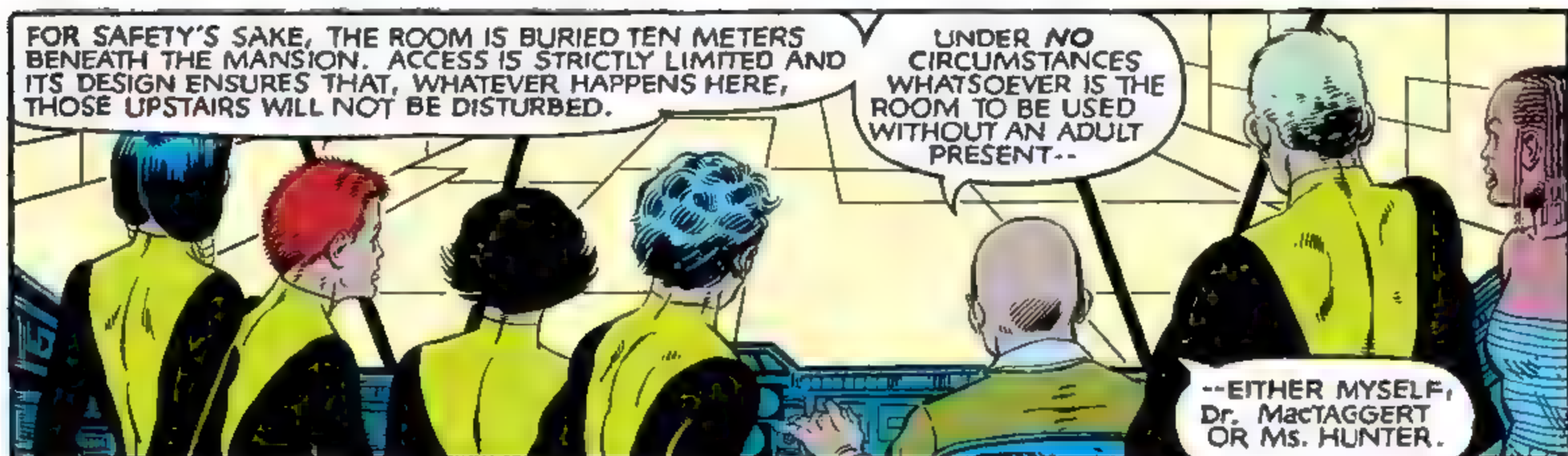
THAT CHAPTER OF MY LIFE IS ENDED. FOREVER.



I... I WAS ONLY ASKING. IT WAS SOMETHING WE'VE ALL WONDERED ABOUT.

THE SUBJECT IS CLOSED.

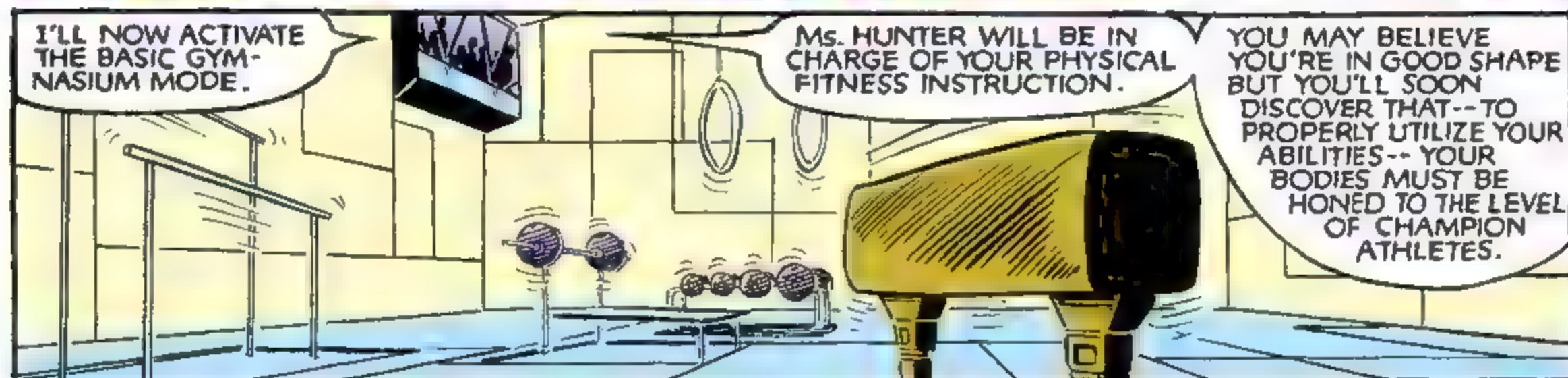
NOW, PAY ATTENTION, STUDENTS, WHILE I EXPLAIN THE OPERATION OF THE MASTER CONSOLE.



FOR SAFETY'S SAKE, THE ROOM IS BURIED TEN METERS BENEATH THE MANSION. ACCESS IS STRICTLY LIMITED AND ITS DESIGN ENSURES THAT, WHATEVER HAPPENS HERE, THOSE UPSTAIRS WILL NOT BE DISTURBED.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WHATSOEVER IS THE ROOM TO BE USED WITHOUT AN ADULT PRESENT--

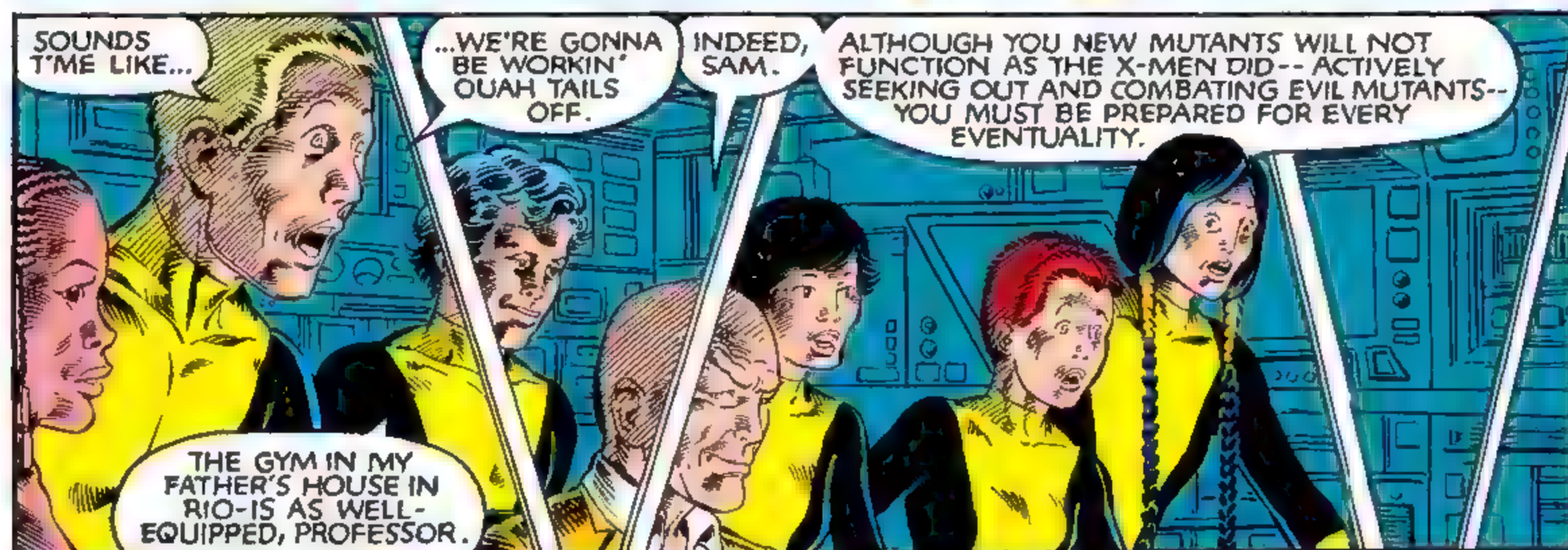
--EITHER MYSELF, Dr. MacTAGGERT OR Ms. HUNTER.



I'LL NOW ACTIVATE THE BASIC GYM-NASIUM MODE.

Ms. HUNTER WILL BE IN CHARGE OF YOUR PHYSICAL FITNESS INSTRUCTION.

YOU MAY BELIEVE YOU'RE IN GOOD SHAPE BUT YOU'LL SOON DISCOVER THAT--TO PROPERLY UTILIZE YOUR ABILITIES-- YOUR BODIES MUST BE HONED TO THE LEVEL OF CHAMPION ATHLETES.



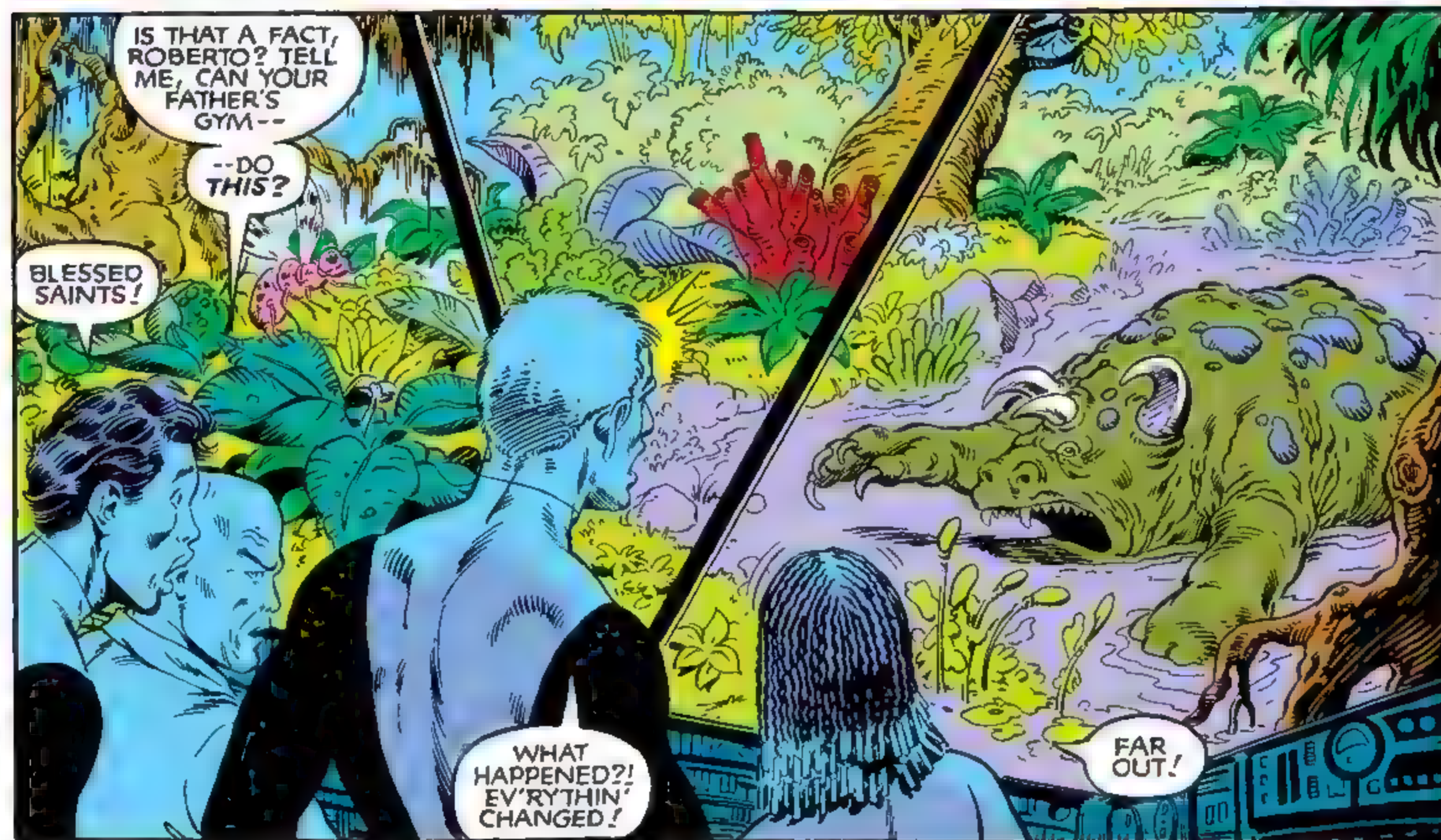
SOUNDS T'ME LIKE...

...WE'RE GONNA BE WORKIN' OUAH TAILS OFF.

INDEED, SAM.

ALTHOUGH YOU NEW MUTANTS WILL NOT FUNCTION AS THE X-MEN DID-- ACTIVELY SEEKING OUT AND COMBATING EVIL MUTANTS-- YOU MUST BE PREPARED FOR EVERY EVENTUALITY.

THE GYM IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE IN RIO-IS AS WELL-EQUIPPED, PROFESSOR.



IS THAT A FACT, ROBERTO? TELL ME, CAN YOUR FATHER'S GYM--

--DO THIS?

BLESSED SAINTS!

WHAT HAPPENED?! EV'RYTHIN' CHANGED!

FAR OUT!



GET BACK! THE MONSTER'S CHARGING!

RRROARRR!

PULL THE PROFESSOR AN' STEVIE OUTTA HERE, GIRLS! BOBBY AN' ME'LL TRY TO HOLD THAT CRITTER BACK!



IT'S-- GONE!?!?

MAGIC!

WE WERE TRICKED! IT WAS ONLY SPECIAL EFFECTS, LIKE IN THE MOVIES!

IN PART, ROBERTO. I KEYED IN AN ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-PROGRAM, CAPABLE OF REPRODUCING ANY EXOTIC LOCALE IMAGINABLE.



IT INTERACTS WITH THE PRIMARY TRAINING PROGRAM THREATS AND PROBLEMS APPROPRIATE TO WHO-EVER'S IN THE ROOM, THEREBY GIVING THAT PERSON EXPERIENCE IN THE USE OF THEIR POWERS, UNDER ACTUAL COMBAT CONDITIONS.

SOME ELEMENTS ARE ILLUSION--THREE-DIMENSIONAL HOLO-GRAPHIC PROJECTIONS-- BUT OTHERS ARE PAINFULLY REAL. YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO TAKE ANYTHING FOR GRANTED.



HAPPILY, YOU WON'T SOON HAVE TO. THAT WAS PART OF AN X-MEN SEQUENCE-- A LEVEL YOU WON'T REACH FOR SOME TIME.

ALL RIGHT, YOUR OWN SEQUENCES ARE PRIMED AND READY.

YOUR TASK WILL BE SIMPLE-- MERELY CROSS THE ROOM TO THE EXIT AND LEAVE.

WHO'D LIKE TO GO FIRST?

CANNONBALL.



CROSS THE ROOM, huh?

SOUNDS EASY.

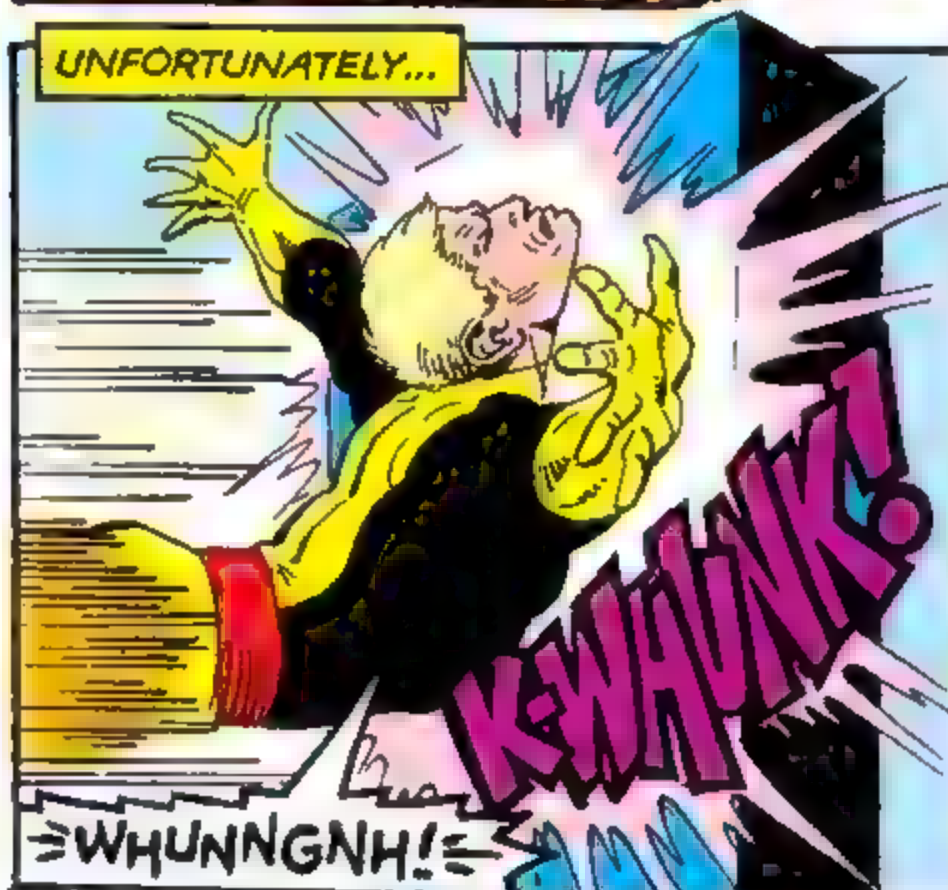
TOO DARN EASY.



HERE GOES NOTHIN'.

A MOMENT'S INTENSE CONCENTRATION IS ALL IT TAKES...

...TO TRIGGER THE THERMO-CHEMICAL REACTION IN AND AROUND SAM GUTHRIE'S BODY THAT PROPELS HIM THROUGH THE AIR LIKE A RUNAWAY ROCKET.



UNFORTUNATELY...



MAN, IT'S A GOOD THING AH CAN'T BE HURT WHEN AH'M BLASTIN'-- OTHERWISE, THEY'D BE SCRAPIN' ME OFF THAT WALL. IT COME UP S' FAST, THERE WAS NOTHIN' I COULD DO.



AH GOT SPEED AN' POWER T' SPARE, BUT AH CAN'T TURN WORTH BEANS, OR STOP, LESS'N SOMETHIN' STOPS ME.

CRIPES, SOME KIND'A FAN!

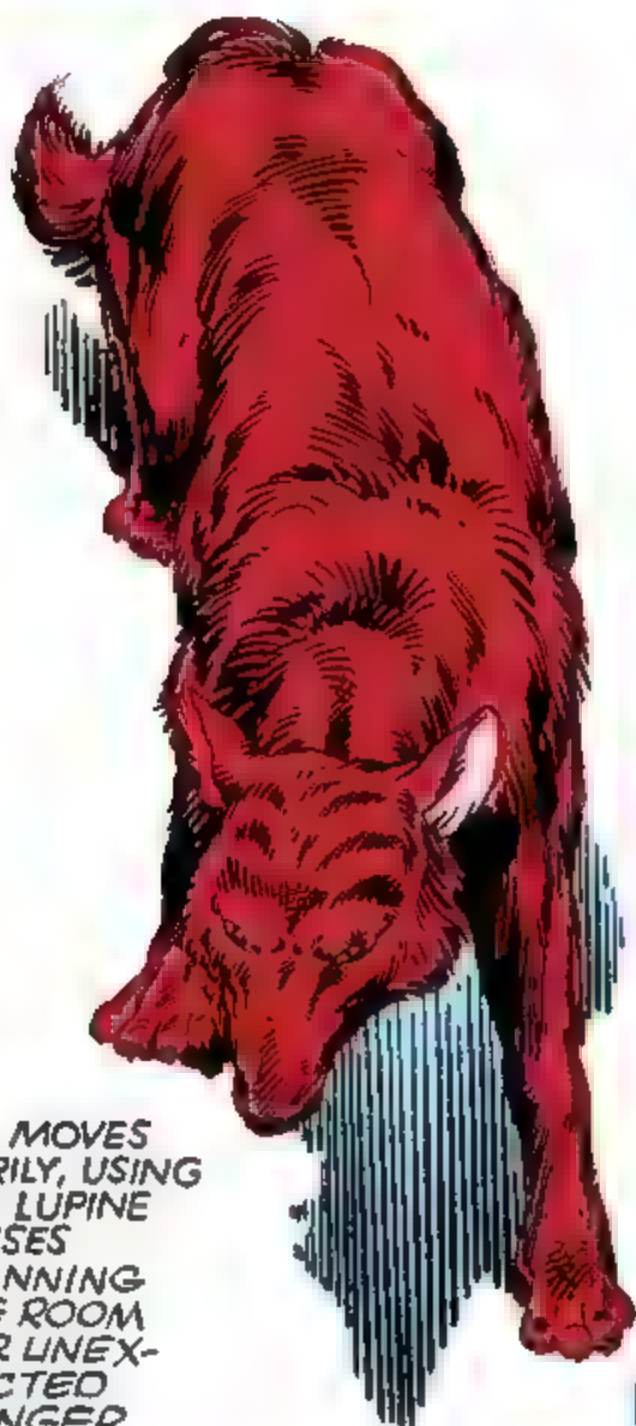
PULLIN' ME IN-- CAN'T TURN MYSELF AROUND TO BLAST FREE!



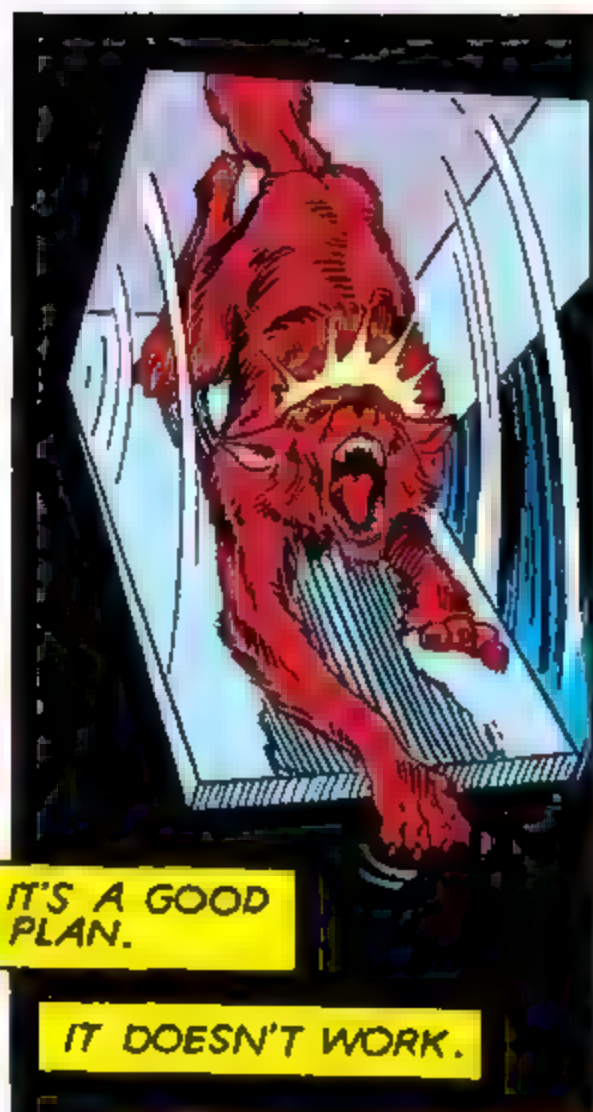
WYOOOWWWW

AH'M BACK WHERE AH STARTED! AH FAILED-- AH DIDN'T EVEN GET HALFWAY.

WOLFSBANE.



SHE MOVES
WARILY, USING
HER LUPINE
SENSES
SCANNING
THE ROOM
FOR UNEX-
PECTED
DANGER.



IT'S A GOOD
PLAN.

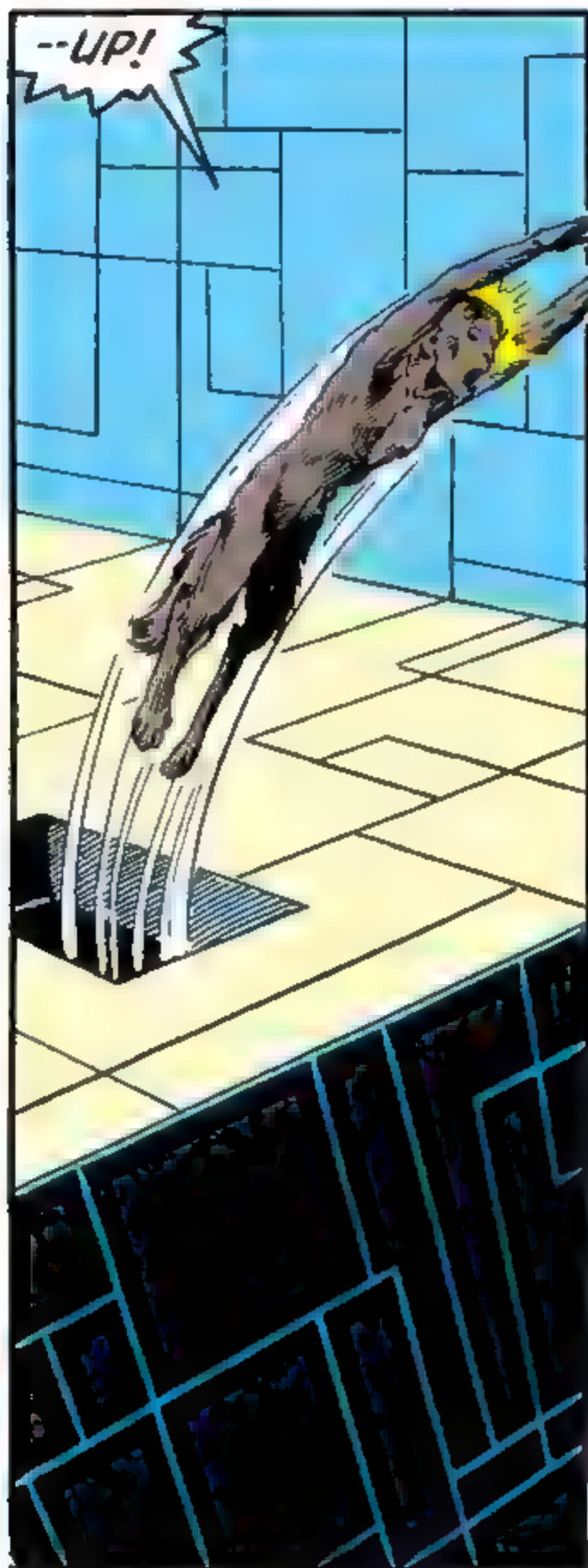
IT DOESN'T WORK.

IN MID-LEAP, RAHNE SHIFTS
TO A TRANSITIONAL FORM
THAT COMBINES THE BEST
ELEMENTS OF WOLF AND GIRL.
SHE GRABS HOLD OF A
LEDGE, BUT...



THE LEDGE-- IT'S
MOVIN'! I
CANNA HOLD ON!

IT'S
FLIPPIN' ME--



SUNSPOT.

IT WILL NOT BE EASY TO OUTWIT THE PROFESSOR. WITH HIS MENTAL POWERS, HE PROBABLY KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT WE ARE THINKING, OR FEELING.

IF HE READS MY MIND, I HOPE MY THOUGHTS MAKE HIM BLUSH-- THAT SOUND?!

A ROBOT!

I'M DISAPPOINTED. I WAS EXPECTING SOMETHING MORE ORIGINAL. ONE PUNCH SHOULD DEAL WITH THIS ANTIQUE.

ENERGY CRACKLES...

... AS THE BRAZILIAN YOUTH METABOLIZES THE KINETIC ENERGY OF THE SUN ITSELF TO FLOOD HIS MUSCLES WITH INCREDIBLE STRENGTH--

-- AND STRIKES!

SPLOOTCH!

I'M STUCK!!

AND THE HARDER I TRY TO ESCAPE, THE MORE STUCK I BECOME!

... AND REVERTS TO NORMAL.

THE OTHERS ARE LAUGHING-- WHY DO I FEEL SO AFRAID?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND. THE ROOM CAN'T REALLY HURT ME.

ALSO-- SINCE HIS RESERVE OF ENERGY IS LIMITED-- THE MORE HE USES, THE SOONER HE BURNS HIMSELF OUT...

YET THE THOUGHT OF ENTERING IT SCARES ME TO DEATH.

KARMA.

OF US ALL, I ALONE HAVE PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN THE USE OF MY ABILITIES. I HAVE FOUGHT AGAINST, AND BESIDE, SPIDER-MAN AND THE FANTASTIC FOUR. TO SAVE THEM--AND MY BROTHER AND SISTER--

-- I USED THOSE POWERS TO DESTROY MY TWIN BROTHER, TRANH. *

I HAD NO CHOICE, BUT THAT DOES NOT MAKE THE MEMORY ANY EASIER TO BEAR.

I MUST BE CAREFUL. THE PROFESSOR CREATED A REAL SETTING FOR MY TEST, AND ORDERED THE OTHERS TO AMBUSH--EH?!

WITH A THOUGHT, KARMA POSSESSES SAM AND SENDS HIM CAREENING INTO SUNSPOT.

CANNONBALL!

THAT SHOULD HOLD THEM...

* IN TEAM-UP #100-- LOUISE.

... BUT WHERE IS WOLFSBANE?!

YYN!!

BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME, eh, SHAN-- SORRY, AH MEAN, "KARMA." AH GOTTA REMEMBER WE'RE S'POSED T' USE OUR CODE NAMES WHEN WE'RE IN COSTUME.

A PERFECT SCORE, MY FRIENDS: DANGER ROOM FOUR, MUTANTS ZERO. I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT THE PROFESSOR HAS IN STORE FOR DANI.

RAHNE, STOP IT, I LIKE YOU, TOO. FOR PITY'S SAKE, ENOUGH! HELP!

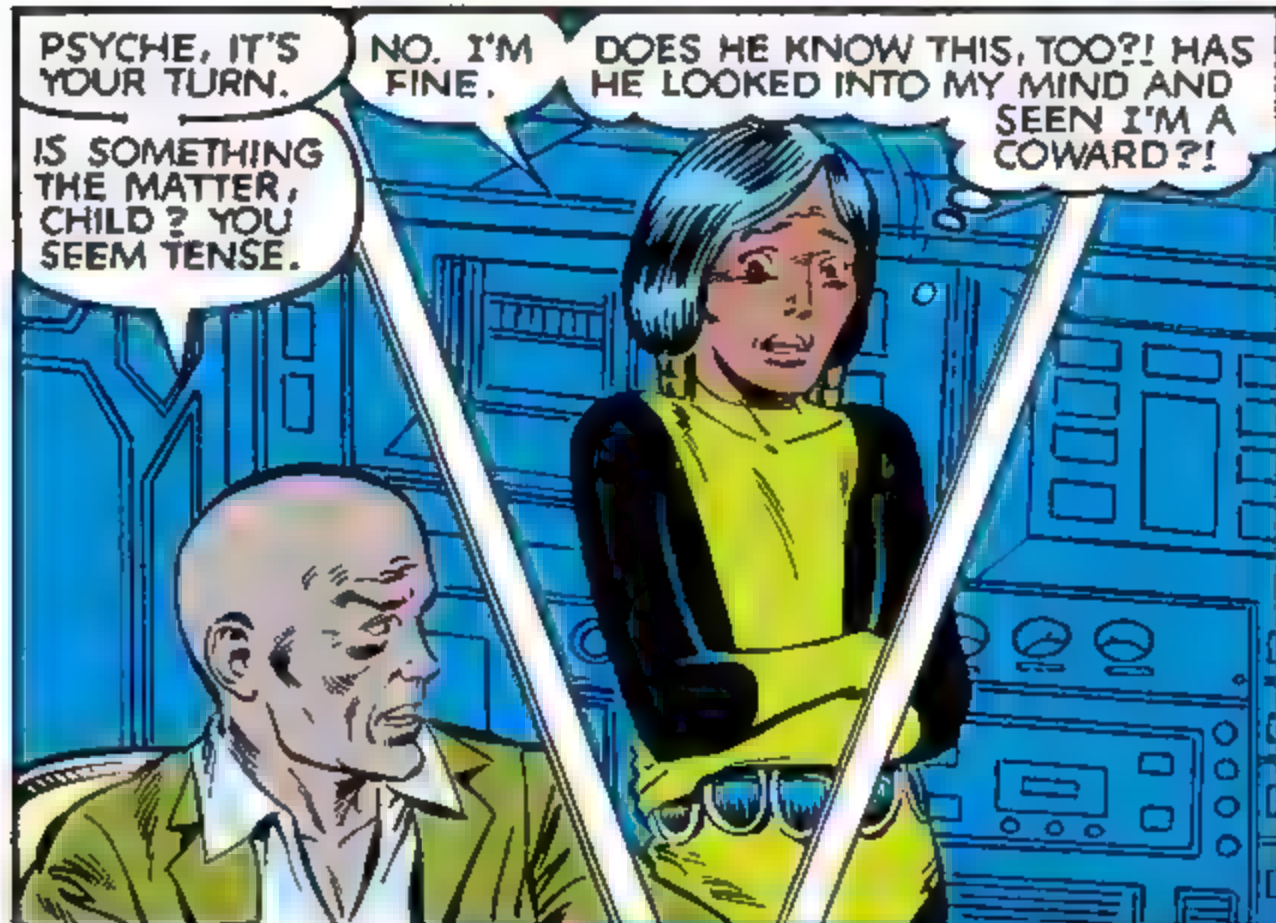
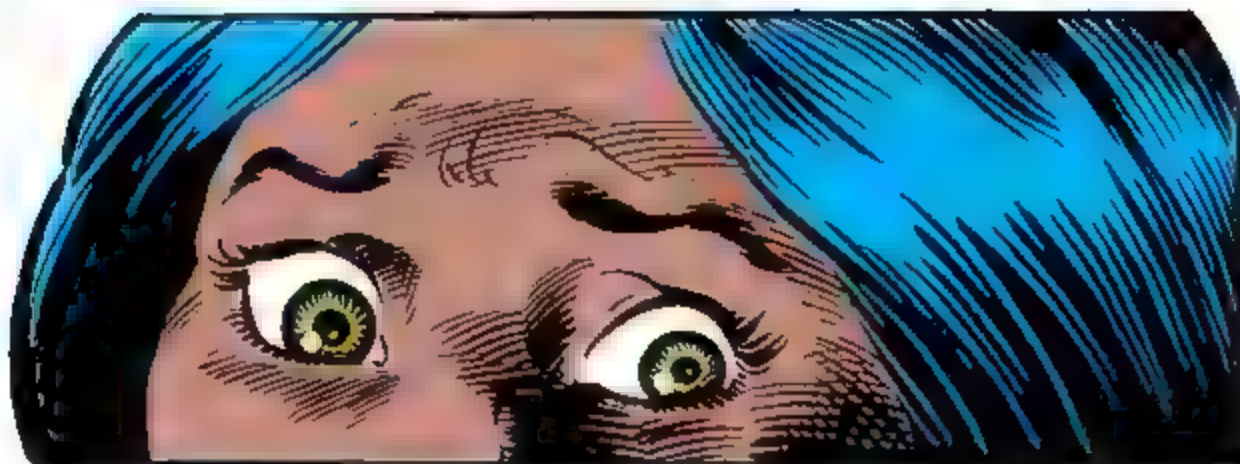
PSYCHE.

I CAN'T.

IF I ENTER THE DANGER ROOM, I'LL DIE.

THAT'S STUPID. GET AHEAD OF YOURSELF, GIRL. THE OTHERS GOT THROUGH WITHOUT A SCRATCH. SO WILL YOU.

ooo



PSYCHE, IT'S YOUR TURN.

NO. I'M FINE.

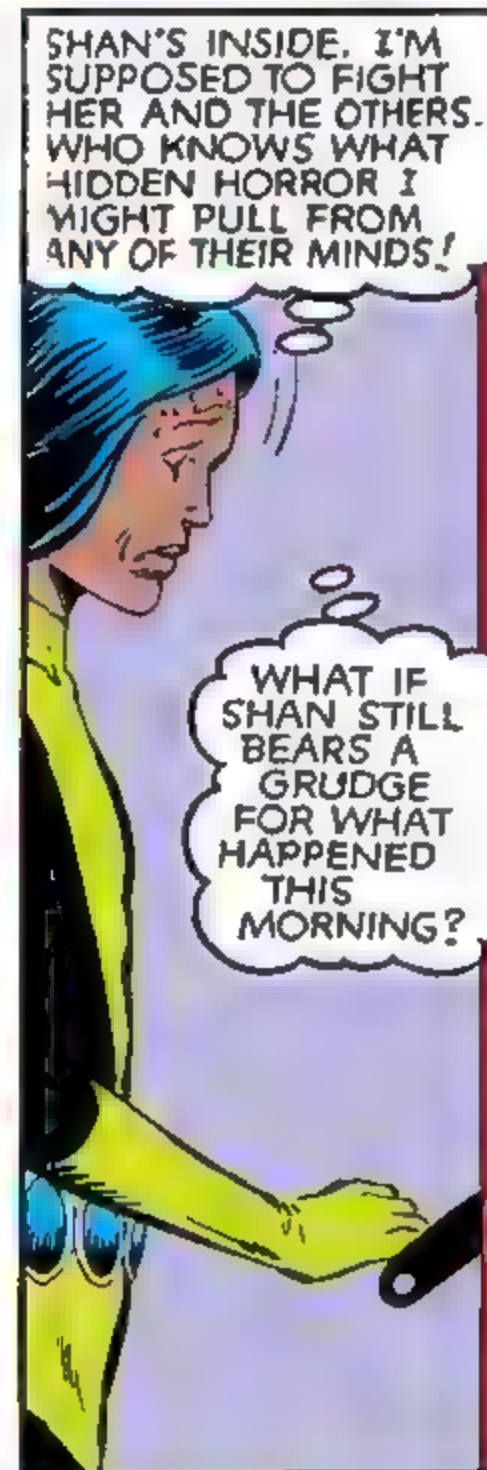
DOES HE KNOW THIS, TOO?! HAS HE LOOKED INTO MY MIND AND SEEN I'M A COWARD?!

IS SOMETHING THE MATTER, CHILD? YOU SEEM TENSE.



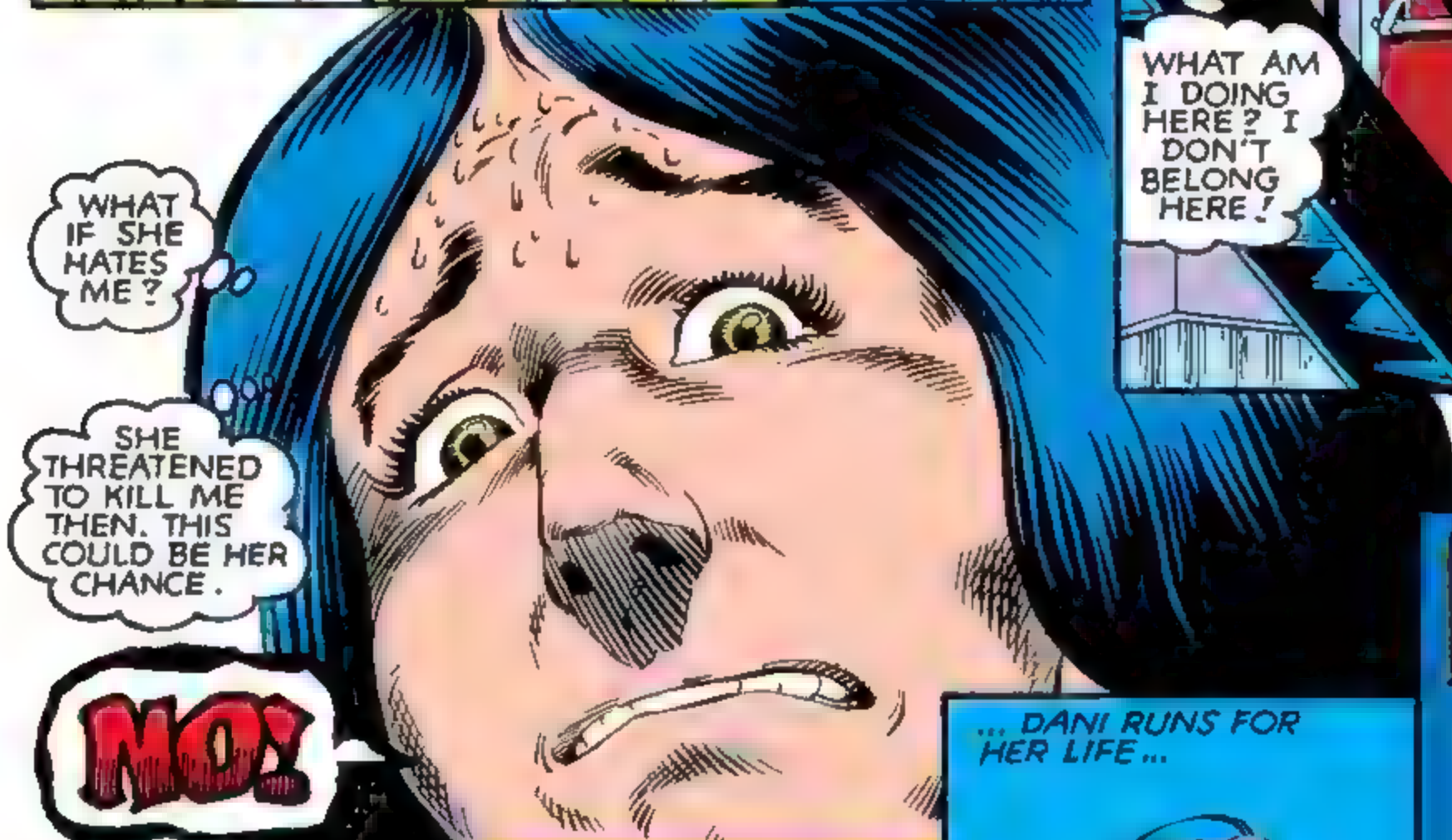
I'VE NEVER BEEN SO SCARED. IT GETS WORSE WITH EVERY STEP.

WHAT AM I DOING HERE? I DON'T BELONG HERE!



SHAN'S INSIDE. I'M SUPPOSED TO FIGHT HER AND THE OTHERS. WHO KNOWS WHAT HIDDEN HORROR I MIGHT PULL FROM ANY OF THEIR MINDS!

WHAT IF SHAN STILL BEARS A GRUDGE FOR WHAT HAPPENED THIS MORNING?



WHAT IF SHE HATES ME?

SHE THREATENED TO KILL ME THEN. THIS COULD BE HER CHANCE.

NO!

... AS IF ALL THE DEVILS IN HELL ARE NIPPING AT HER HEELS.

... DANI RUNS FOR HER LIFE...

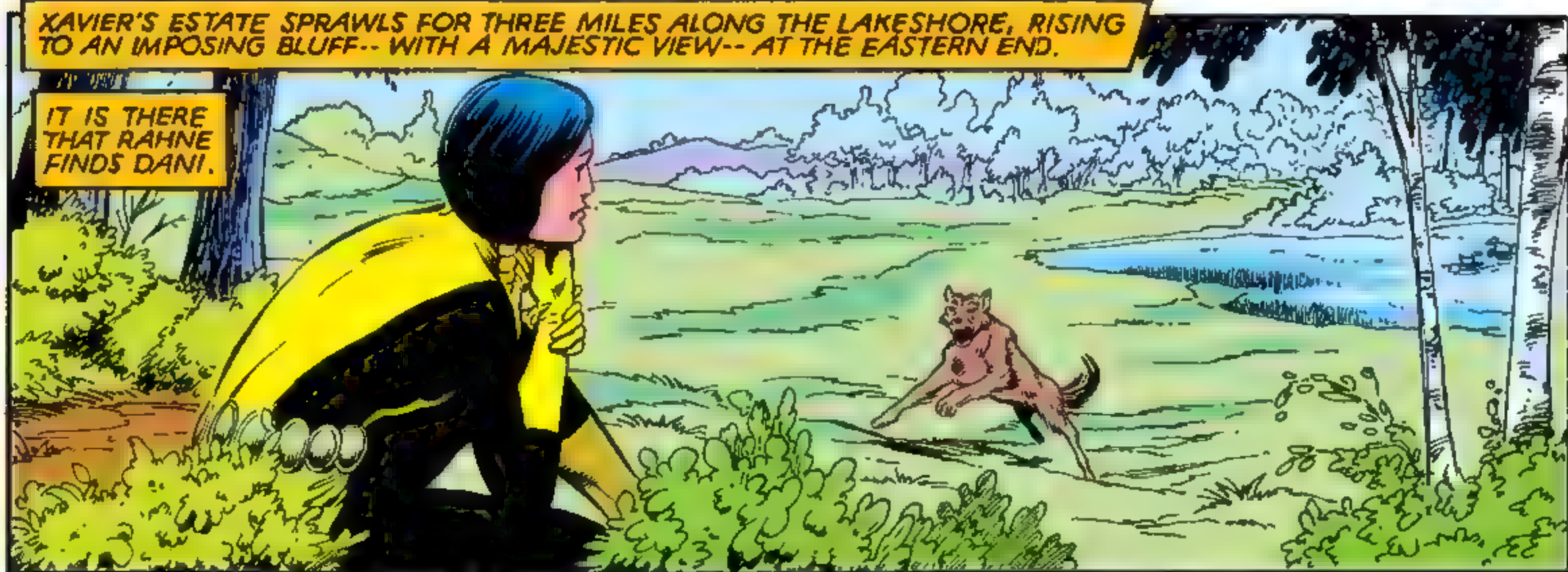
... TORN FROM HER HEART AND SOUL...

WITH THAT CRY...



XAVIER'S ESTATE SPRAWLS FOR THREE MILES ALONG THE LAKESHORE, RISING TO AN IMPOSING BLUFF-- WITH A MAJESTIC VIEW-- AT THE EASTERN END.

IT IS THERE THAT RAHNE FINDS DANI.



ARE Y' OKAY, DANI?

SURE. WHY SHOULDN'T I BE?

YOU RAN AWAY SO SUDDENLY, WI'OUT EXPLANATION. I WAS WORRIED.

DID THE OTHERS SEND YOU?



NO. I CAME ON MY OWN.

THEY DIDN'T CARE, huh?

DON'T BE DAFT. IT'S JUST THEY HAD NO IDEA ANYTHING WAS WRONG.

AND YOU KNEW BETTER?

AYE. IN WOLF FORM, I COULD TELL FROM YUIR SCENT Y'HAVE A VERY NICE SCENT, Y'KNOW. I LIKE IT.

OH, DANI, IT'S SO NEAT! I CAN SEE AN' HEAR AN' TASTE AN' SMELL SO MANY THINGS AS A WOLF THAT I NE'ER DREAMED EXISTED!



I'M GLAD YOUR POWER MAKES YOU HAPPY, RAHNE. I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO BE RID OF MINE.

IS THA' WHY YOU'RE SO MISERABLE?

CAN YOU TELL THAT FROM MY SCENT?

I THINK SO. I'VE NOT QUITE WORKED EVERYTHING OUT YET.



IT'S SO MUCH FUN-- LIFE'S SO SIMPLE AN' UNCOMPLICATED-- THA', SOMETIMES I FIND MYSEL' WISHING I COULD STAY A WOLF FOREVER, AN' NE'ER BE HUMAN AGAIN.

I'D MISS YOU.

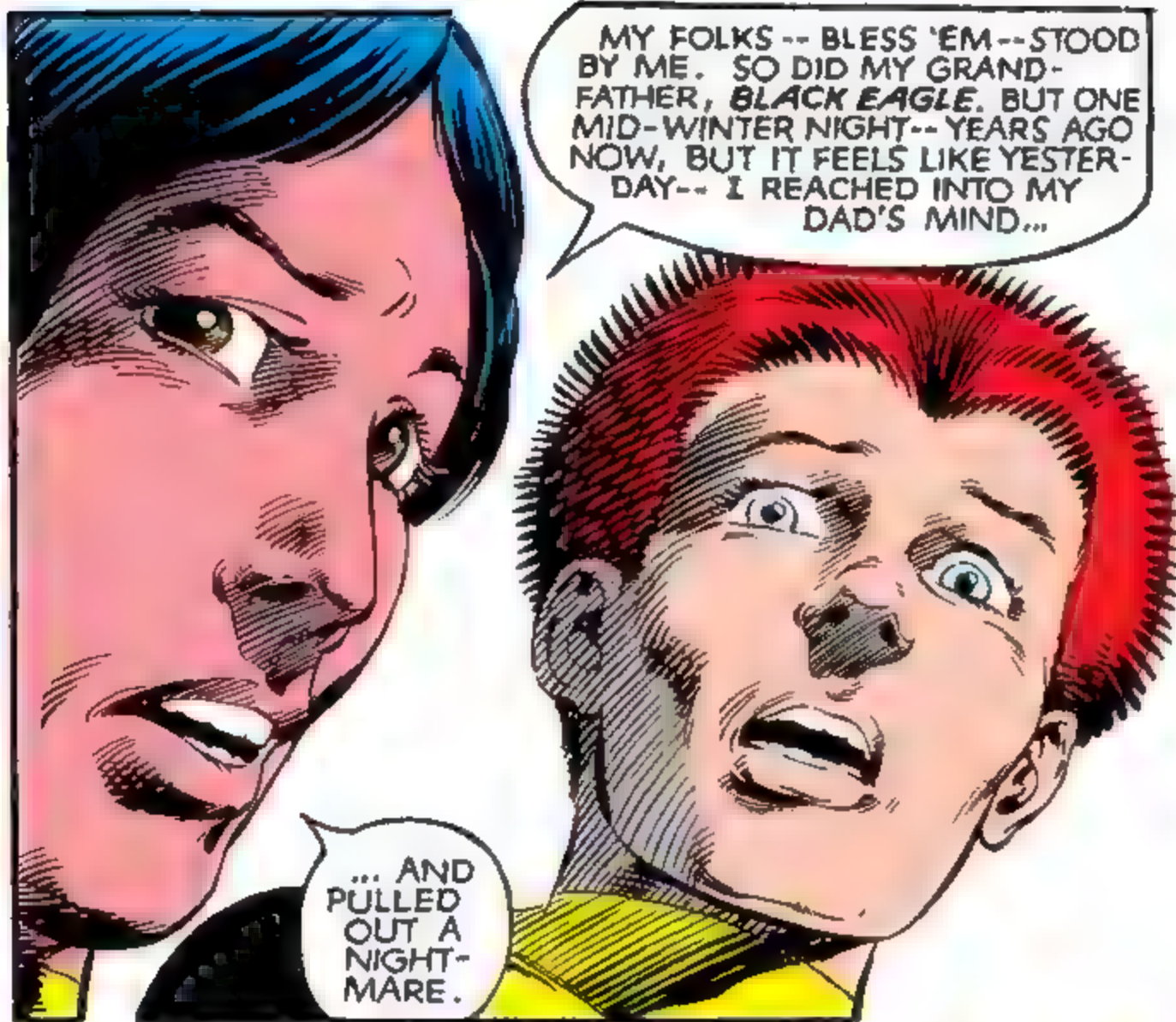
OCH, I'D NE'ER LEAVE MY FRIENDS, DANI, NO MATTER WHAT!

I NAE HAD ANY T' SPEAK OF-- IN SCOTLAND.



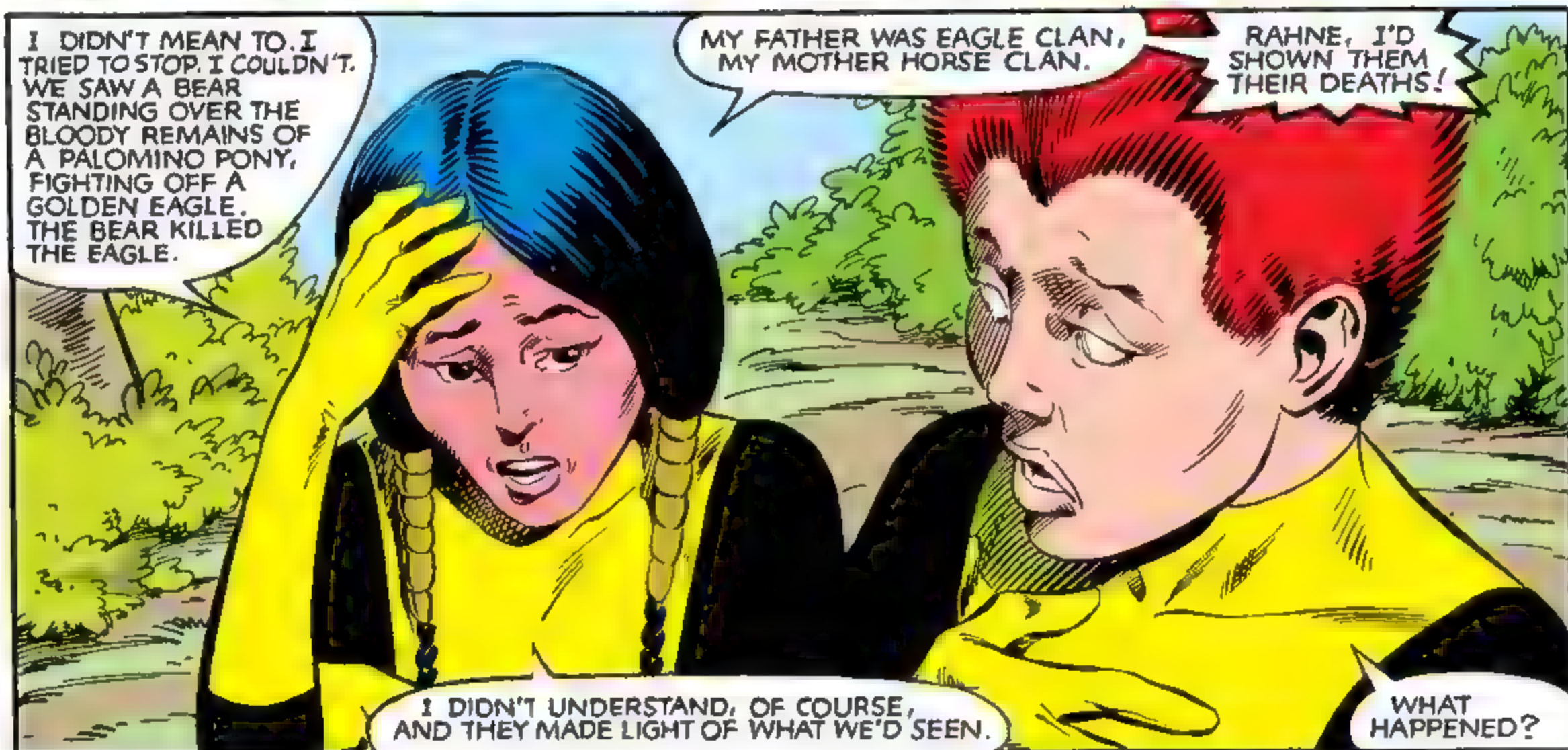
WE HAVE THAT IN COMMON.

THOUGH I HAD FRIENDS--
UNTIL MY POWERS CAME
INTO BEING. THEN, IT--
I-- DROVE THEM AWAY.
ALMOST OVERNIGHT, I
BECAME AN OUTCAST,
DISOWNED BY EVERYONE
I KNEW-- AND
LOVED.



MY FOLKS -- BLESS 'EM--STOOD
BY ME. SO DID MY GRAND-
FATHER, **BLACK EAGLE**. BUT ONE
MID-WINTER NIGHT-- YEARS AGO
NOW, BUT IT FEELS LIKE YESTER-
DAY-- I REACHED INTO MY
DAD'S MIND...

... AND
PULLED
OUT A
NIGHT-
MARE.



I DIDN'T MEAN TO. I
TRIED TO STOP. I COULDN'T.
WE SAW A BEAR
STANDING OVER THE
BLOODY REMAINS OF
A PALOMINO PONY,
FIGHTING OFF A
GOLDEN EAGLE.
THE BEAR KILLED
THE EAGLE.

MY FATHER WAS EAGLE CLAN,
MY MOTHER HORSE CLAN.

RAHNE, I'D
SHOWN THEM
THEIR DEATHS!

I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND, OF COURSE,
AND THEY MADE LIGHT OF WHAT WE'D SEEN.

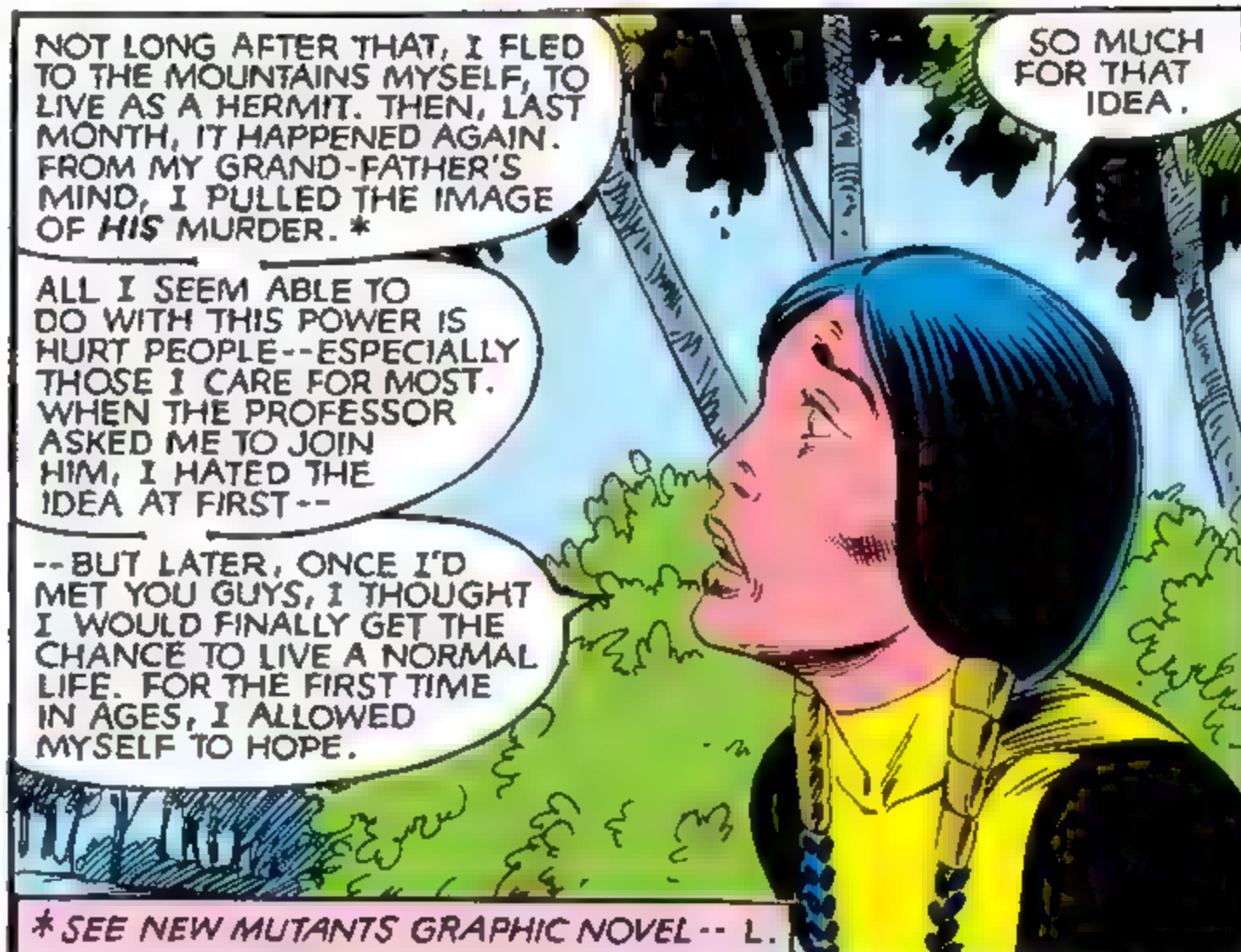
WHAT
HAPPENED?



A WEEK LATER, DAD PACKED THE TRUCK
FOR A TRIP TO THE HIGH COUNTRY. HE
TOOK HIS BEST GUNS AND BOW... HE
LOOKED LIKE A WARRIOR PREPARING
FOR BATTLE. MOM INSISTED
ON GOING WITH HIM.

THEY
LEFT ME
IN **BLACK
EAGLE'S**
CARE.

I NEVER
SAW THEM
AGAIN.



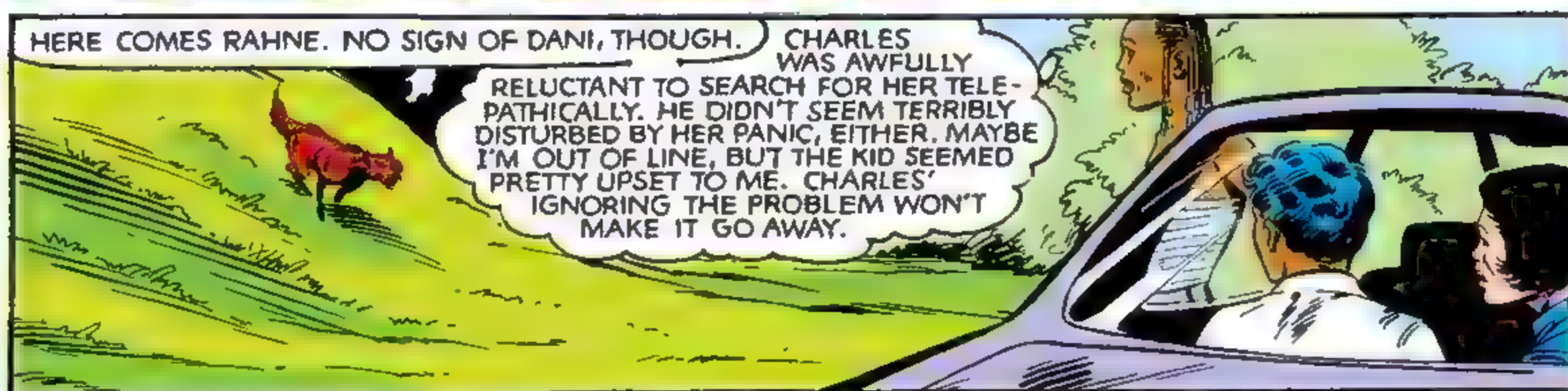
NOT LONG AFTER THAT, I FLED
TO THE MOUNTAINS MYSELF, TO
LIVE AS A HERMIT. THEN, LAST
MONTH, IT HAPPENED AGAIN.
FROM MY GRAND-FATHER'S
MIND, I PULLED THE IMAGE
OF HIS MURDER. *

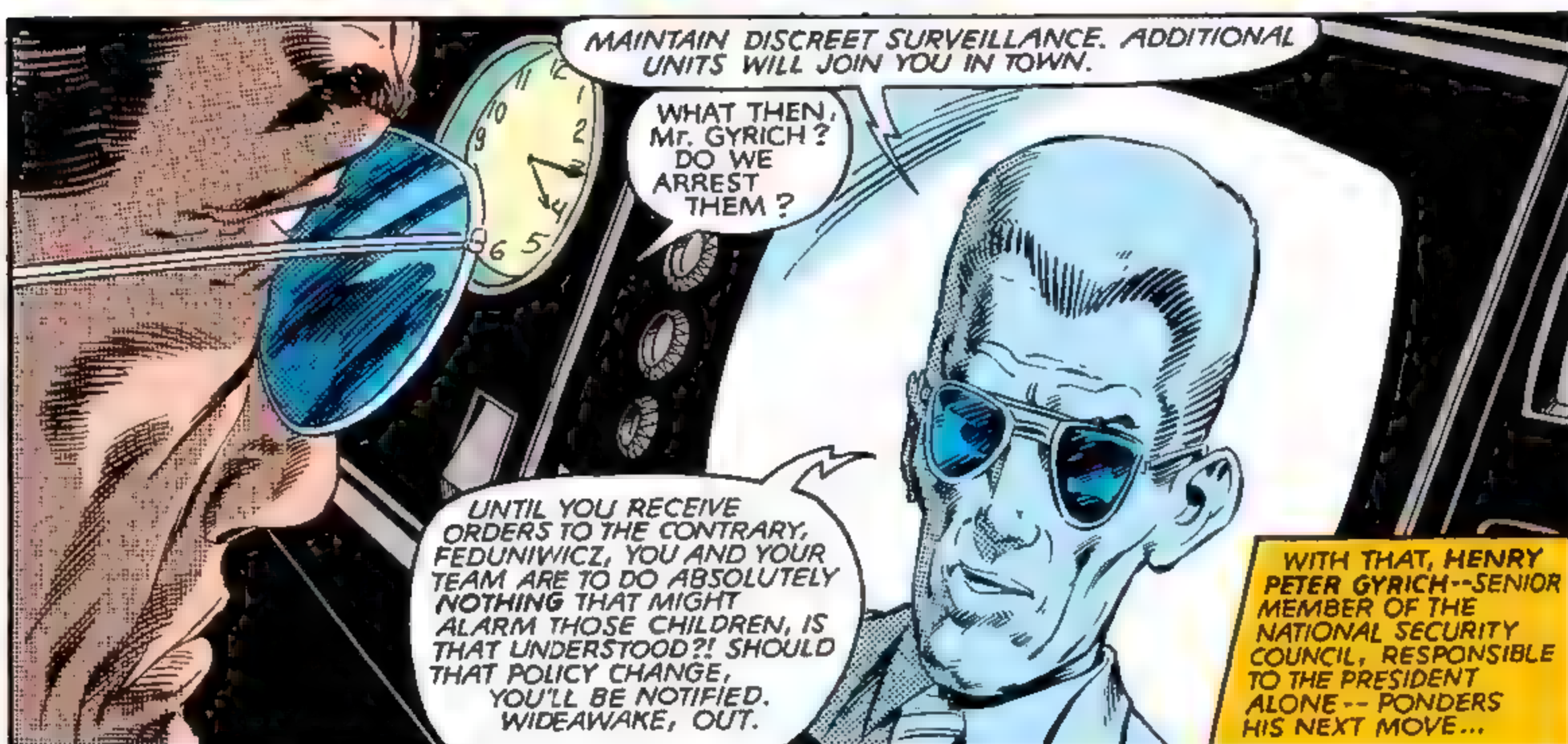
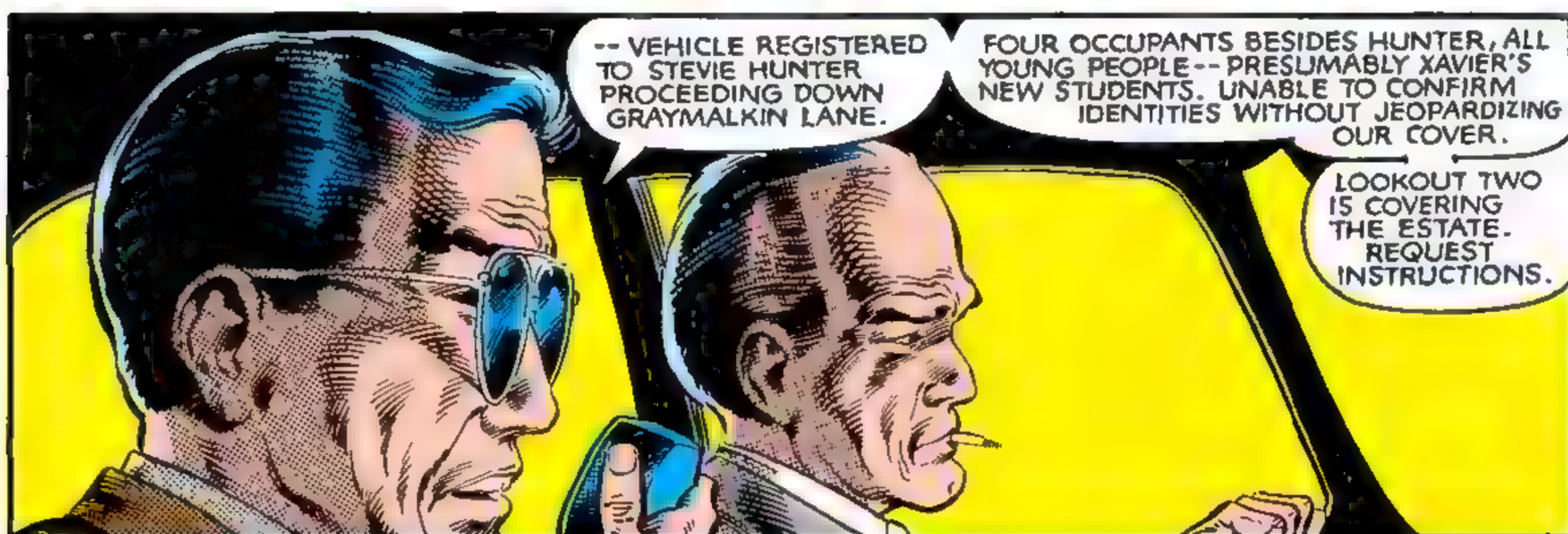
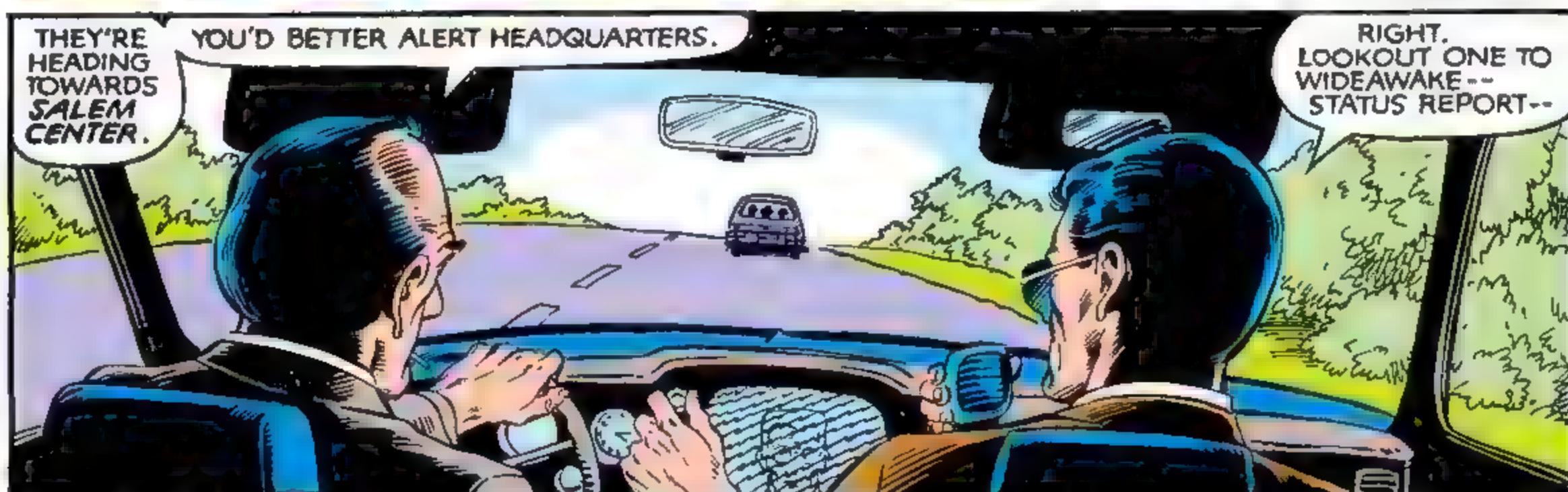
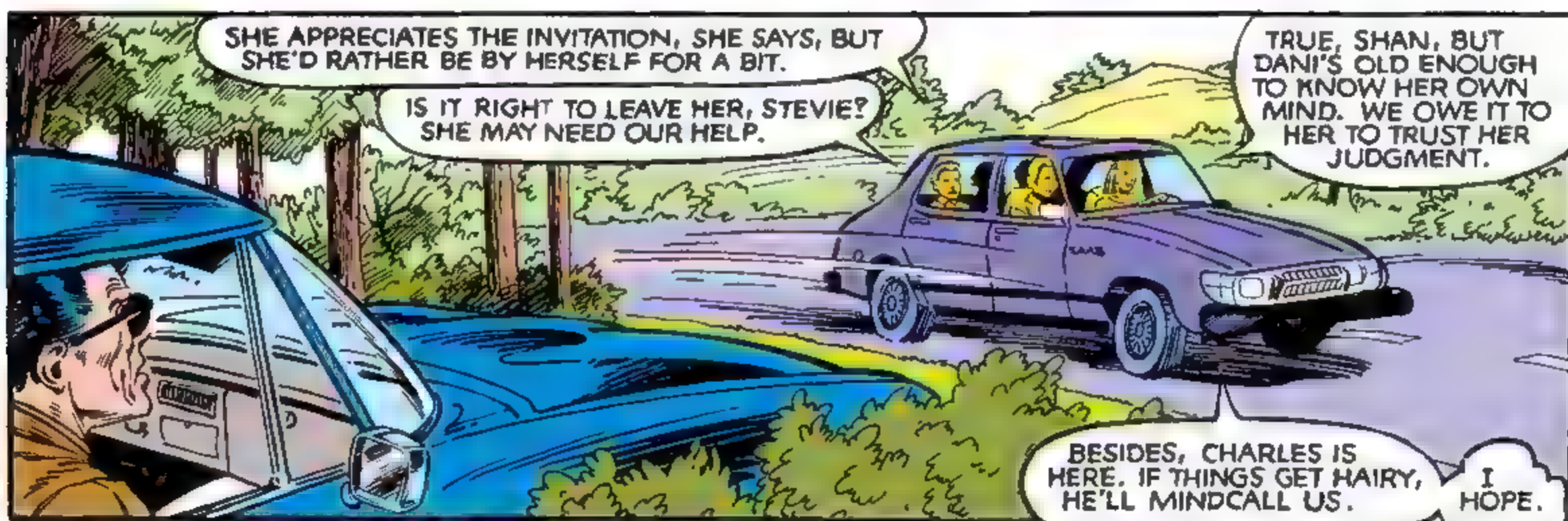
ALL I SEEM ABLE TO
DO WITH THIS POWER IS
HURT PEOPLE--ESPECIALLY
THOSE I CARE FOR MOST.
WHEN THE PROFESSOR
ASKED ME TO JOIN
HIM, I HATED THE
IDEA AT FIRST--

--BUT LATER, ONCE I'D
MET YOU GUYS, I THOUGHT
I WOULD FINALLY GET THE
CHANCE TO LIVE A NORMAL
LIFE. FOR THE FIRST TIME
IN AGES, I ALLOWED
MYSELF TO HOPE.

SO MUCH
FOR THAT
IDEA.

* SEE NEW MUTANTS GRAPHIC NOVEL -- L.





... WHILE, BACK AT THE MANSION...



THERE'S NO SIGN OF THE PROFESSOR. HE MUST HAVE GONE OUT, TOO.



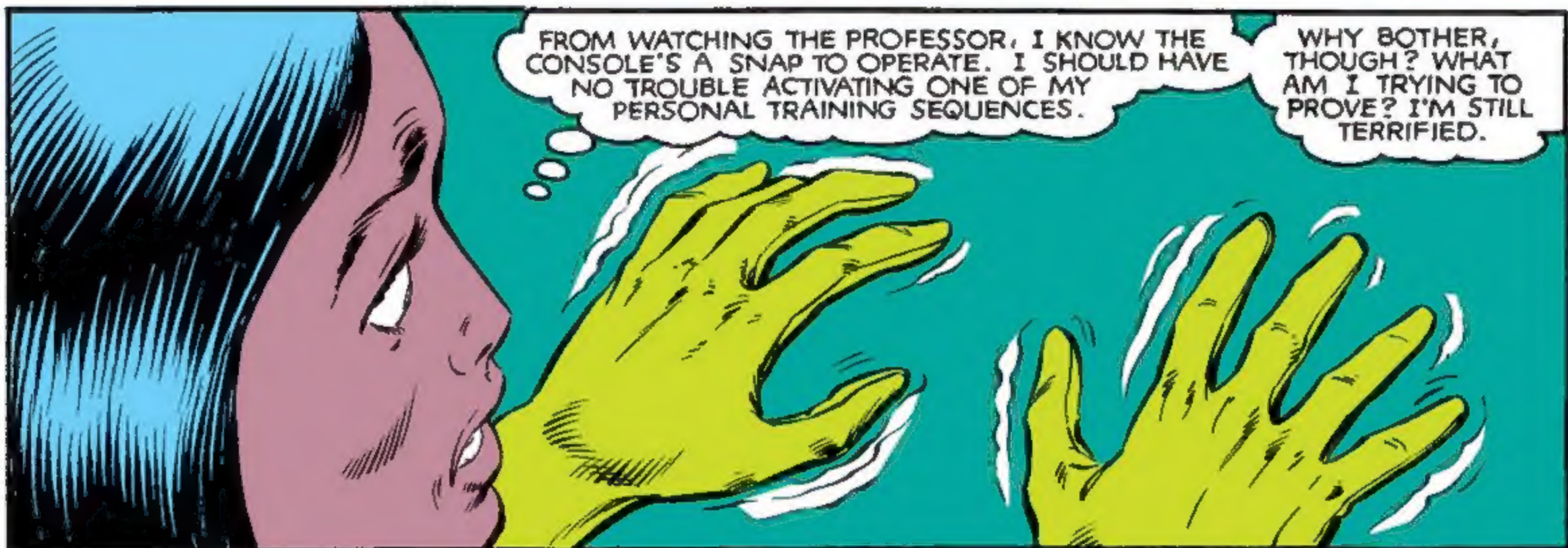
I'M GLAD. EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO DO THIS ALONE, I DON'T WANT ANY WITNESSES-- NO ONE BUT ME TO KNOW WHETHER I SUCCEEDED...

...OR FAILED.



FROM WATCHING THE PROFESSOR, I KNOW THE CONSOLE'S A SNAP TO OPERATE. I SHOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE ACTIVATING ONE OF MY PERSONAL TRAINING SEQUENCES.

WHY BOTHER, THOUGH? WHAT AM I TRYING TO PROVE? I'M STILL TERRIFIED.



MAYBE THAT'S THE POINT. I WANT TO RUN-- WITH ALL MY HEART. AND SO, I BET, DID MOM AND DAD, AND GRANDFATHER. I'D SHOWED THEM THE MOMENT OF THEIR DOOM--IN ALL ITS HORROR--YET *THEY* FACED IT.

I MIGHT NOT BE GOOD ENOUGH TO STAY HERE-- I MAY FLUNK OUT OF THIS SCHOOL-- BUT ONLY AFTER I'VE TRIED MY VERY BEST. COME WHAT MAY, I'LL BE ABLE TO HOLD MY HEAD HIGH, WITHOUT SHAME, AS A CHEYENNE SHOULD!

MY FAMILY ARE PEOPLE OF HONOR AND COURAGE, PROFESSOR. YOU'LL FIND I'M CAST FROM THE SAME MOLD!



THE INSTANT SHE STEPS
ACROSS THE DANGER
ROOM'S THRESHOLD,
THE TEST BEGINS...

OH!

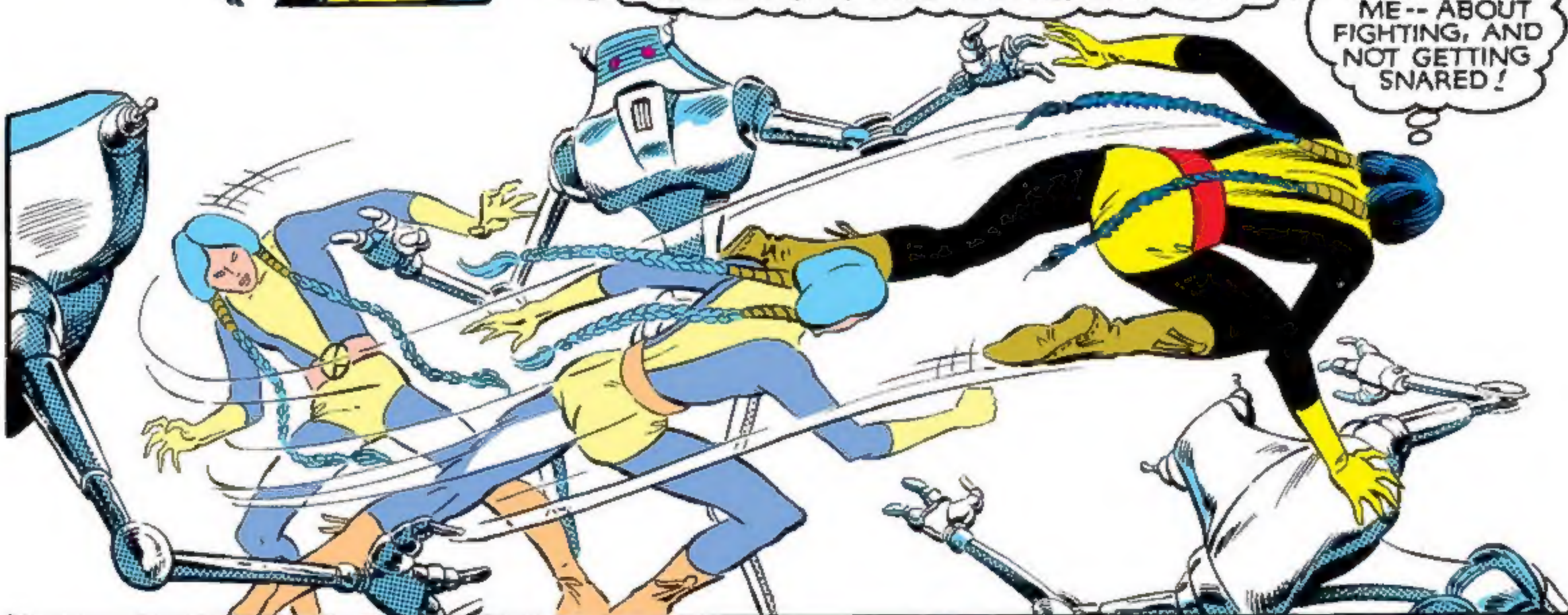
ROBOTS!

MY POWER ONLY WORKS AGAINST LIVING
BEINGS! IT'S USELESS AGAINST THESE THINGS.
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M HELPLESS.

FAR
FROM IT!

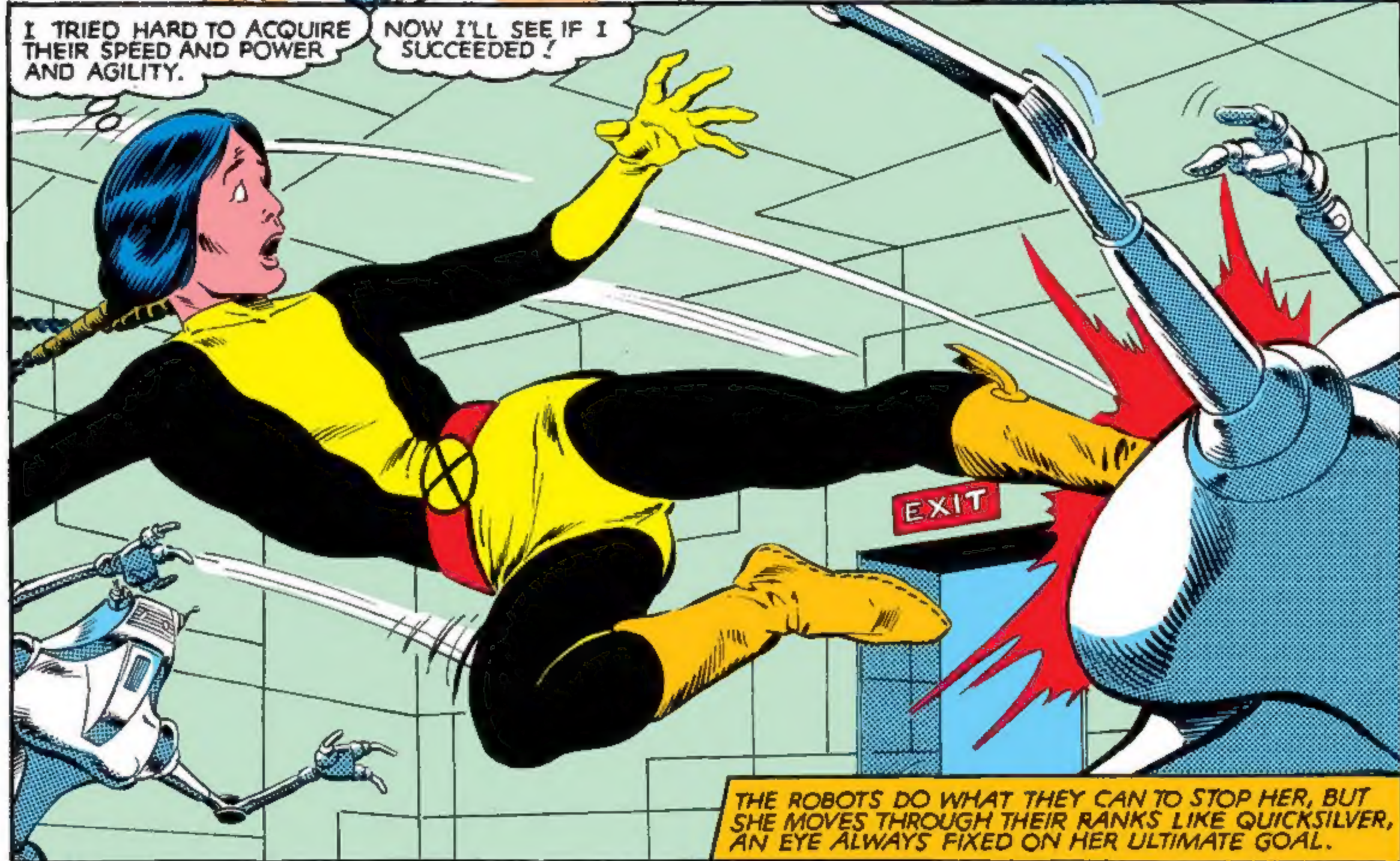
I'VE BEEN ROAMING THE MOUNTAINS SINCE I COULD
WALK, HUNTING AND PLAYING WITH THE ANIMALS--WHO
WERE MY ONLY TRUE FRIENDS, EVEN THEN.

I LEARNED
ALL THEY
COULD TEACH
ME-- ABOUT
FIGHTING, AND
NOT GETTING
SNARED!

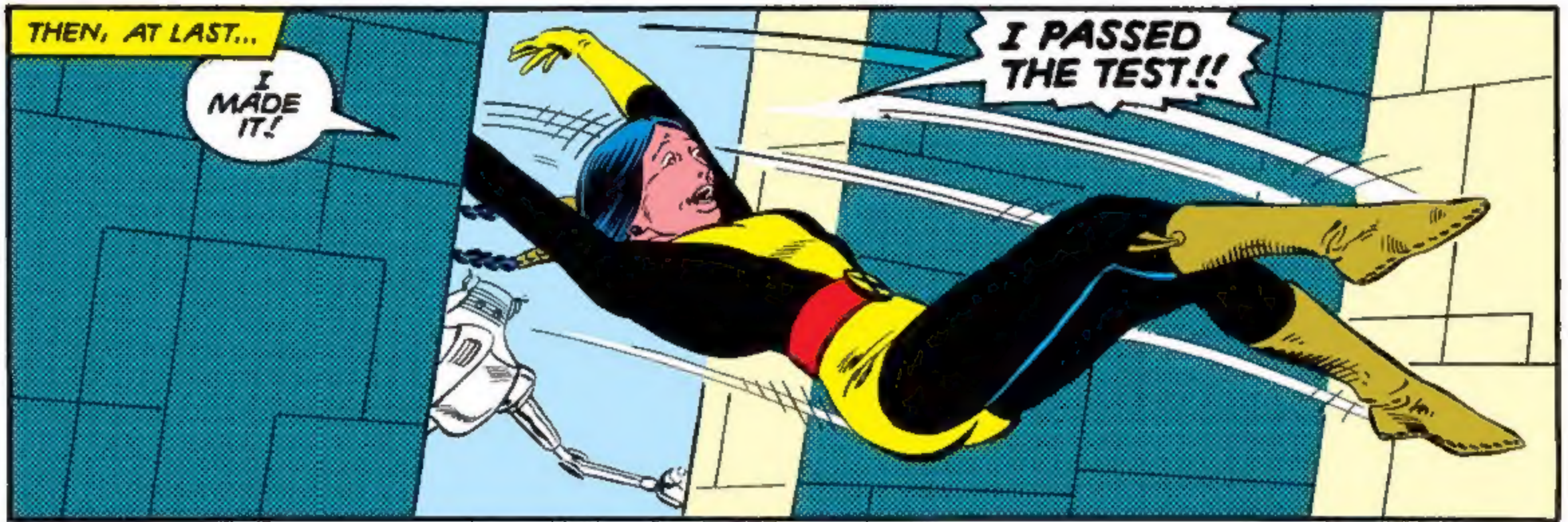


I TRIED HARD TO ACQUIRE
THEIR SPEED AND POWER
AND AGILITY.

NOW I'LL SEE IF I
SUCCEEDED!



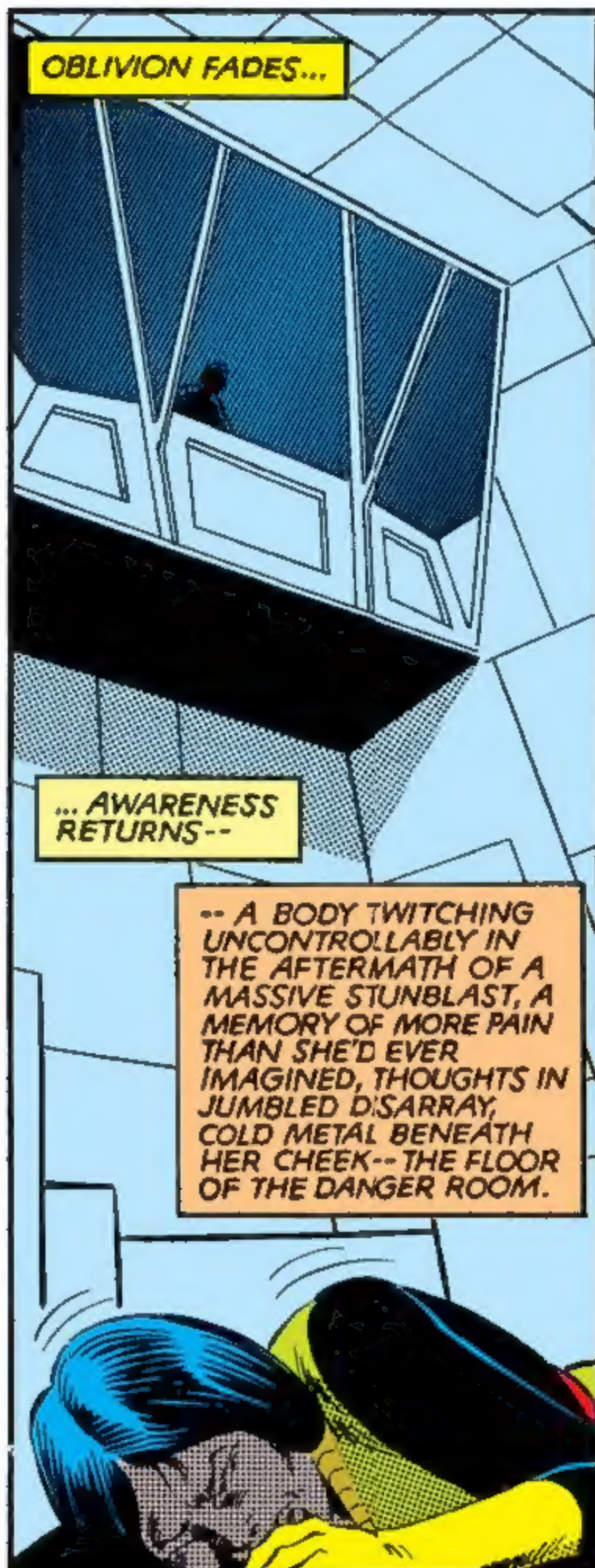
THE ROBOTS DO WHAT THEY CAN TO STOP HER, BUT
SHE MOVES THROUGH THEIR RANKS LIKE QUICKSILVER,
AN EYE ALWAYS FIXED ON HER ULTIMATE GOAL.



THEN, AT LAST...

I MADE IT!

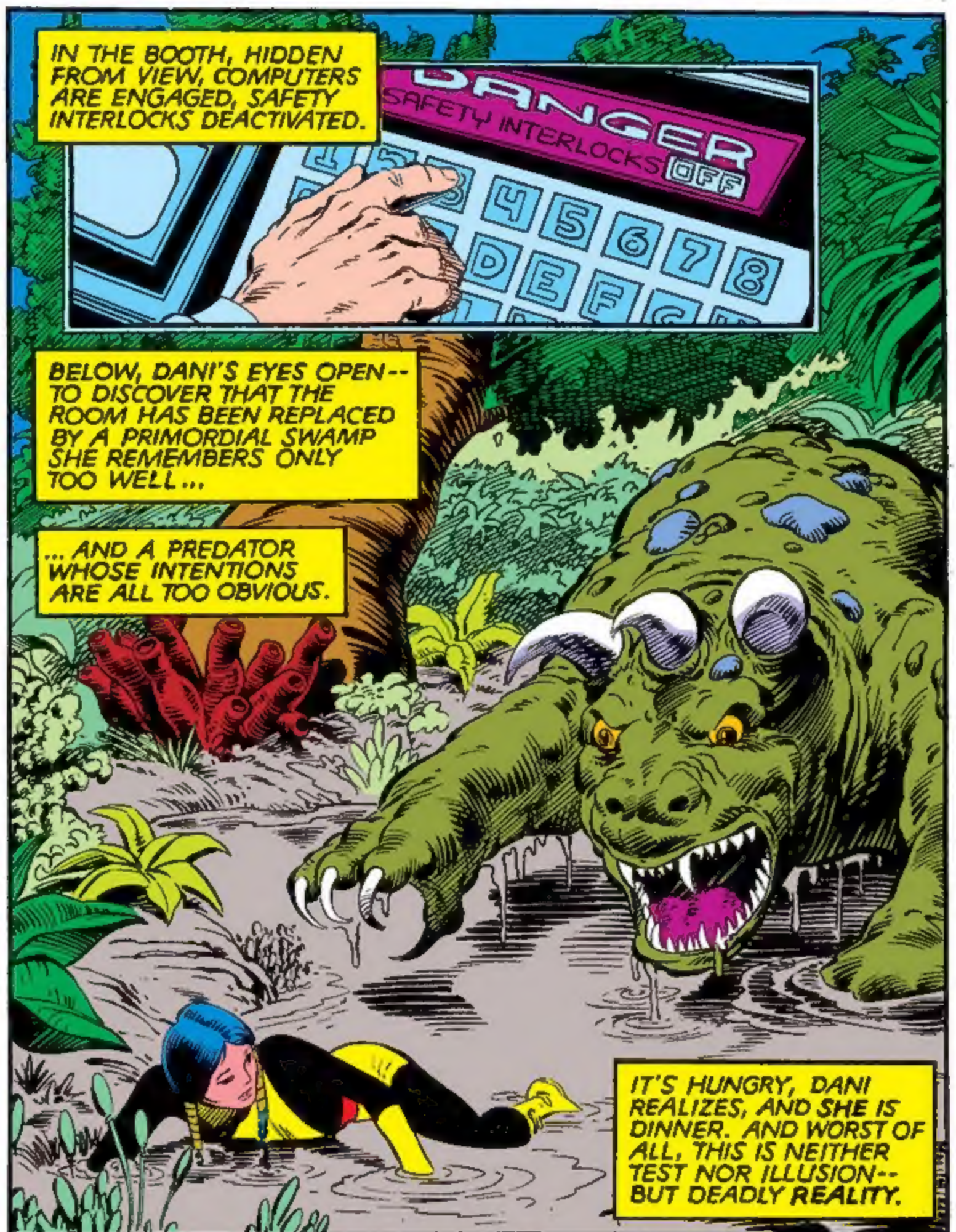
I PASSED THE TEST!!



OBLIVION FADES...

... AWARENESS RETURNS--

-- A BODY TWITCHING UNCONTROLLABLY IN THE AFTERMATH OF A MASSIVE STUNBLAST, A MEMORY OF MORE PAIN THAN SHE'D EVER IMAGINED, THOUGHTS IN JUMBLED D'SARRAY, COLD METAL BENEATH HER CHEEK-- THE FLOOR OF THE DANGER ROOM.



IN THE BOOTH, HIDDEN FROM VIEW, COMPUTERS ARE ENGAGED, SAFETY INTERLOCKS DEACTIVATED.

BELOW, DANI'S EYES OPEN-- TO DISCOVER THAT THE ROOM HAS BEEN REPLACED BY A PRIMORDIAL SWAMP SHE REMEMBERS ONLY TOO WELL...

... AND A PREDATOR WHOSE INTENTIONS ARE ALL TOO OBVIOUS.

IT'S HUNGRY, DANI REALIZES, AND SHE IS DINNER. AND WORST OF ALL, THIS IS NEITHER TEST NOR ILLUSION-- BUT DEADLY REALITY.

NEXT ISSUE:

SENTINELS

